Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Hospital agency staff costs for financial year revealed

NHS TRUST CHIEFS' £15m FOR TEMPS

By Dayna Farrington

HOSPITAL bosses in Sandwell have spent more than £15 million on temporary staff in the last financial year, new figures have revealed.

A total of £15,821,000 was spent by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust between April 2017 and March 2018.

The trust has recently completed a targeted recruitment for 'hard to fill nurse roles' to reduce reliance on temporary workers. Chief executive of the trust, Toby Lewis, said they had made good progress to reduce the amount compared to the previous year.

It comes after last year the trust admitted to breaching NHS targets for how much can be spent on locum workers, by overspending on agency staff by £10 million in 10 months – having spent £21.3 million on agency workers between April 2016 and February 2017.

Struggled

Bosses at the trust admitted that reducing the amount spent on temporary staff was a 'key priority' for them and at the time described their overspend as 'outside acceptable levels'.

Agency spending caps have been set by NHS Improvement in a bid to reduce spending on temporary staff, but hospital trusts have struggled to meet these due to a national shortage of qualified people.

According to NHS Improvement guidelines, trusts can only over-ride these caps, setting the amount a trust can pay per hour for an agency worker 'in exceptional patient safety circumstances only'.

Overall for the previous year, the trust – which runs Sandwell General Hospital – spent £24,167,000 on temporary staff.

Mr Lewis, chief executive at the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust said: "We have made good progress in reducing the amount we spend on agency staff from £24 million last year to £15 million.

"This is due to a freeze on using the most expensive agencies to fill temporary roles and hosting recruitment events to find candidates for hard to fill vacancies, with over 40 conditional offers made at our recent recruitment event at Sandwell Hospital.

"We are committed to continuing to reduce agency spend in line with our financial plan."

JUMPING FOR JOY AS FUN-SEEKERS HIT THE PARK

Special guest super hero Spider Man (Martyn Richards-Perry) with mascot Poppy (Karleigh Jai), and Kylan Griffiths aged four, on the bouncy castle

A PARK in Sandwell was the focus of attention for fun-seekers in the sunshine as part of Sandwell Mayor's Community Weekend.

The event took place on Saturday at Hydes Road Play Area in Wednesbury, from 11am to 3pm.

More than 170 children between the ages of three and 11 turned up with parents in tow to enjoy lots of activities and attractions including a bouncy castle, mascots and face-painting.

Organised by Sandwell Council in conjunction with environmental group Groundwork and Let's Play – part of the Go Play Sandwell programme – the day was hailed as a big success for the town. Sera Richards-Perry, who was one of the people behind the event, paid tribute to the 'community feel' about the day. She added: "The event was organised by the people of Wednesbury for the people of Wednesbury.

The budget for the day was partly thanks to the Big Lottery Fund, which helped 100 events get off the ground with grants across the region.

There was something for everybody at the event, with a free tombola for the parents to take part in, while lots of the youngsters enjoyed a cooling ice cream in the heat.

Charley Eagles, aged 12 and Jo Cain from Natural History Presentations, with a corn snake

FOOTBALL

Baggies pay tribute to heyday with kit

ALBION have paid tribute to one of their iconic kits from the club's heyday by reintroducing the wide stripes for next season.

The Baggies have launched their home kit for 2018/19, the first to be made by Puma after eight years with Adidas.

The new shirt

And together with Puma, the club has recreated one of their most famous kits from the late 1970s.

As well as the wide stripes and collar, the iconic 'WBA' italic lettering which was the crest during that period features on the back of the socks. The shirt will be available in ladies sizes for the first time in eight seasons, and fans can also buy white or blue shorts and socks.

Adult shirts are priced at £50 with Junior shirts and Infant kits also retailing for £40.

The 2018/19 home kit will go on sale in club shops and online from 9am tomorrow, Friday,but can be pre-ordered now. Season ticket holders can get five per cent off.

● More pictures next week

POLICE

Three arrested over Domino's break-ins

A TIPTON woman has been charged with four counts of conspiring to commit burglary after a spate of break-ins took place at Domino's takeaway shops on Monday night. Pizza shops in Wednesbury, Rowley Regis, Stafford and Rugeley were targeted.

Debbie Anderson, aged 35, of Toll End Road, was granted conditional bail to appear at Cannock Magistrates on July 18.

Andrew Bowering, 24, of Gomer Street, Willenhall, and Michael Watkins, aged 35, of Wednesfield Road, Willenhall, were both charged with four counts of burglary. Bowering was remanded in custody and was due to appear before magistrates on Tuesday while Watkins was granted conditional bail and is due to appear before Cannock magistrates on August 1.

INSIDE

Finding harmony for celebration

PAGE 3

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CONTENTS

RHODES 6
LETTERS 7
NHS HEROES 16
AREA FOCUS 18
TICKET 21
TV 24
PROPERTY 29
SPORT 39-40

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Admiring the magnificent motors in Dudley town centre as part of the festival

Kerry Pike from Birmingham in a 1953 Bentley at the classic car show

Black Country Festival off to a sizzling start

THE Black Country Festival got off to a bostin' start at the weekend.

Thousands flocked to events, from road runs to classic car shows and fun days, as the month-long celebrations got under way.

On Saturday around 1,000 people attended the Gornal Fun Day. Basking in the sunshine, families enjoyed face painting, fair rides, stalls, a birds of prey display and a battle reenactment group. Joan Porter, one of the organisers, said: "The whole event went really well and the weather was brilliant."

The same day crowds lined the streets to see a cavalcade of classic cars parade along the High Street in Dudley as part in the second Dudley Classic Car Show, with a display of 29 vehicles. The magnificent motors included a Rolls Royce, an Aston Martin and two E-type Jaguars. Organiser John Emms said: "Lots said they were really pleased they had come as they said they hadn't visited Dudley for years.

Mayor

On Sunday runners braved sweltering conditions to take on the Black Country Road Run – including West Midlands mayor Andy Street, blind fundraising legend Dave Heeley and Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris – which took place around Halesowen and was organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

Alan Bowler, one of the organisers, said: "There might have been a few people who were put off by the desperately hot weather but we probably had about 1,000 people come along. The feedback has been really positive."

The Black Country Festival, now in its fifth year, runs until July 29, with Black Country Day on July 14. A street food festival is at Stourbridge's Bonded Warehouse on Friday and Halesowen Carnival at Highfield Park on Saturday, the same day as the Chain Makers Festival in Cradley Heath, Tividale Park and Netherton Park fun days. Stourbridge Carnival is on Sunday.

Mayor Andy Street, Blind Dave Heeley and MP James Morris took part in the Black Country Road Run

Owl man Karl Perry brought Boo to Gornal Fun Day

Made up – Maddison Sharp, six, enjoyed Gornal Fun Day

Sculpture to honour founders of attractions

A NEW sculpture to honour people who fought to preserve Haden Hill House and Haden Old Hall in Cradley Heath will be officially opened on Sunday.

The Friends of Haden Hill Estate commissioned Black Country sculptor Luke Perry to create the wedding bower and there will be a special event taking place with live music.

The Deputy Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Carol Goult will join the Friends and councillors to unveil the sculpture outside Haden Hill House at 2pm.

BUGS Ukulele Strummers will be performing immediately after the unveiling ceremony and again at 3.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

Ken Smith, chair of the Friends group, said: "We wanted to do something to commemorate what was done by the late Meryl Cockin, The Preservation Society, The Protection Society and others in the 1970s."

Luke Perry has designed the bower using influences from the park, including the dragons on the cast iron park benches installed in the 1930s.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Goult: "It's fantastic that the Friends and Luke have created a lasting tribute to the people who helped to preserve these two historic buildings."

MP Pat calls for more NHS funds

PAT McFadden has called for more funding for the NHS as he marked the 70th anniversary of its foundation.

The Wolverhampton South East MP visited the city's New Cross Hospital and spoke with staff to celebrate the NHS, which turns 70 today (Thursday).

He said: "For all of us, it's not only a national service, it's something deeply personal because we rely on it at times of great personal need for ourselves or for our families. I pay tribute to the founders of the NHS and to everyone who has supported it or cared for it.

"We should resolve not just to support the service as it is but to make sure that it is funded properly for the future.

"It's a time for great celebration on the 70th anniversary, but it's also a time to renew and resolve, to keep a health service that's the envy of the world."

Countryfile star Adam to give town hall talk

FARMER and Countryfile presenter Adam Henson is to give a talk about his life.

An Evening with Adam Henson will be at Birmingham Town Hall on September 6 at 7pm. He will be sharing stories about his farming life, TV career and the running of Cotswold Farm Park.

Judge issues appeal over missing boy and parents

AN urgent appeal has been issued for help in finding a 16-month-old boy and his pregnant mother who vanished after social workers raised concerns about their welfare.

High Court judge Mr Justice Keehan issued the appeal for Joeking Kyerah and his mother Eunice Kyerah, who lived in Tipton.

The judge says evidence suggests that the youngster has been 'spirited away' by his mother, who is more than 30 weeks pregnant, and father Richard Kyerah in the wake of fears that he would be taken from them.

The judge appealed for help during a hearing in the Family Division of the High Court in London on Friday.

The judge issued arrest warrants for Mr and Mrs Kyerah, who are originally from Ghana, and urged anyone with information to raise the alarm.

He says it is 'of the gravest possible urgency' that Joeking, is found.

The judge was told that Mr and Mrs Kyerah had links to the West Midlands, South Wales and Norfolk.

Social services bosses at Sandwell Council, had welfare responsibilities for Joeking and had begun family court litigation. Lawyers representing social workers said Mrs Kyerah had lived in Tipton and was believed to have stayed in Great Yarmouth.

Now social services bosses say they have evidence that the family have been recently staying in Croydon.

Delays warning at busy junction

DRIVERS are being warned to expect disruption as work to carry out essential maintenance and improvements at one of Birmingham's busiest road junctions is due to begin.

The works at Dartmouth Circus are expected to take eight weeks – with a proposed end date of September 3.

Birmingham City Council, Transport for West Midlands and Highways England are working together to co-ordinate the schemes and minimise the disruption.

Alternative routes will be signed – although people are being advised to walk, cycle or use public transport wherever possible.

Work is also being carried out to extend the priority bus lane in Lichfield Road.

Celebration quiz

A BLACK Country-themed quiz night is to be held in Tipton. The event is part of the Black Country Day celebrations and is taking place at Glebefields Library in St Nark's Road on July 12 at 7pm. Call 0121 557 8641.

Former pupil, headteacher Beth awarded

Bethany Barnsley with her award

SMETHWICK assistant headteacher Bethany Barnsley has clinched a top award for her teaching – at the very school she went to as a child.

Bethany, who works at Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies, picked up a silver award in the 2018 Pearson Teaching Awards.

Selected from thousands of nominations, Bethany is one of just 65 winners who were celebrated recently. Bethany attended the school as a pupil and she has worked at Devonshire Academies since qualifying as a teacher. She was presented with her prestigious Silver Pearson Teaching Awards trophy at a special ceremony by Sharron Philpot, Executive Headteacher and Robert Craig, representing Pearson.

The Pearson Teaching Awards are an annual celebration of exceptional teachers, founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam to recognise the life-changing impact an inspirational teacher can have on the lives of the young people they teach. Bethany, who has worked at the school for 10 years, said she felt lucky to work with her colleagues and pupils at Devonshire.

"I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have received a Silver Award for Excellence in Special Educational Needs Education," she added. "I am very lucky to work with such incredible children at Devonshire Academies. The award is a testament to the fantastic teams that work so hard and continually strive for the best for our young people."

Sharron Philpot, Executive Headteacher at Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies, which is part of Victoria Academies Trust said: "This is such a well-deserved award."

Shops caught selling alcohol to youngsters

NEARLY 40 shops were caught selling alcohol or tobacco to minors under the age of 18 over a year in the Sandwell borough.

The new figures were revealed as Sandwell Council's trading standards team continues to crackdown on local shops.

The latest test purchase figures for April 2017 to March 2018 revealed that out of 49 shops visited in the borough, 20 of them sold alcohol to an under-age volunteer.

Those 20 shops were warned, with only two of them re-offending when a follow-up visit was conducted. A further 33 test purchases were made for the sales of cigarettes – with only two shops selling to the under-age volunteers. They were both visited again, and both refused to sell the items.

Twenty-three test purchases were carried out for nicotine-inhaling products or e-cigarettes – with 65 per cent selling products to minors.

Unknown

The 15 non-compliant shops were warned, with only two shops re-offending. New legislation making it illegal to sell nicotine-inhaling products to under-18s came in force in October 2015 and retailers caught flouting the law face a fine of up £2,500 as well as a criminal record.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, cabinet member for public health and protection, said: "Clearly this is an unacceptable result. It's important that retailers have procedures in place to make sure they do not break the law.

"Research suggests that e-cigarettes could act a gateway to smoking tobacco cigarettes and the long-term health effects of using electronic cigarettes are still unknown."

Bob Charnley, trading standards and licensing manager at the council, added: "I am disappointed to see that a minority of retailers still sold age-restricted products to young people.

"The issue of underage sales in Sandwell is a high priority for us and our partners, as illegal sales of alcohol and tobacco to youngsters are not acceptable."

Strum-thing to celebrate in Sandwell

From left, deputy mayor Councillor Carol Goult, Councillor Elaine Costigan, event organiser Richard Flatley of

MORE than a thousand people attended an event to learn more about community groups and organisations in Sandwell.

The second Celebrate Sandwell event took place at West Bromwich Town Hall last Friday with nearly 60 organisations taking part. The free event was officially opened by deputy mayor, Councillor Carol Goult, and included music, workshops, information stalls and fitness sessions.

Stalls were themed into different areas and entertainment included a hula-hoop dancer, percussion workshops, storytelling, musicians and poets. Richard Flatley, from the Sandwell Networkers group, said: "It was a fantastic event and we had over 1,000 people attend, with 60 stalls taken by various community groups.

"When people talk about Sandwell they can often be quite disparaging and we are looking to turn that around."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver, 26, dies as car hits wall

A MAN has died after his car hit a wall in Birmingham.

Emergency services were called to All Saints Street, in Winston Green, just before 7.30pm on Friday night to reports of a Mercedes car hitting a wall. The driver of the car, a 26-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A 25-year-old passenger was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Police closed the road for a number of hours while the scene was made safe. Anyone with information about the crash is asked to call officers on 101, quoting incident log number 2479 of June 29.

Health club to go under the hammer

A FORMER health club is among commercial properties going under the hammer at an auction in Birmingham. The next SDL Auctions Bigwood auction is at Villa Park on July 18.

The former Sprintz Health and Fitness Club in Cramp Hill, Wednesbury, has a guide price of more than £275,000 in the sale. It is situated on a prominent corner position. Ian Tudor, head of commercial auctions at SDL Auctions Bigwood, said: "It occupies a good potential catchment area for future trade for a variety of alternative leisure, hospitality, meeting room and religious type uses."

Police target yobs over grass fires

YOBS are causing chaos by starting fires on grassland around the Black Country as the heatwave continues.

Police have warned they will be targeting those starting fires in the open as forecasters said the hot weather is set to continue.

Temperatures were set to hit 30C (86F) in places this week. Police tweeted: "Be warned, if we find out who sets these fires they will most certainly be dealt with by police."

Firefighters have also continued to battle a large-scale blaze on the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Crash girl, 11, saved by cycle crash helmet

AN 11-year-old girl who suffered serious injuries in a road accident was 'saved by her cycle helmet'.

Amey Hogan was on her way to school in Ruyton-XI-Towns, near Oswestry, when she was involved in a collision with a van. She suffered a broken skull, cheekbone and jaw and is in Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Since the accident villagers have raised more than £4,400 through a Just Giving page.

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COUNTY NEWS

Motability show to feature 100 cars

THE country's biggest display of vehicles for disabled people will set up home at Birmingham's NEC at The Big Event.

Taking place tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, it offers disabled motorists and their families the chance to investigate the Motability Scheme, with free admission and free parking.

Free to attend and with free parking, it is the Motability Scheme's flagship event this summer.

The Motability Scheme provides affordable motoring to more than 600,000 disabled customers and their families. More details are available at motability.co.uk/thebigevent.

Drug driving up over two years

DRUG-DRIVING offences in the West Midlands have more than doubled in just two years, according to new research.

A total of 1,231 drivers were charged with driving under the influence of drugs in 2017, up from 533 in 2015.

This includes consumption of illegal, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, which could have an impact on a motorist's ability to drive, such as chlorphenamine, hydroxyzine or promethazine – all types of antihistamines to curb symptoms of hay fever.

In total, more than 6,300 UK drivers have been caught under the influence of drugs in 2017.

Investment brings jobs to the region

OVERSEAS firms pumping money into West Midlands businesses helped create more than 9,400 jobs last year, new figures reveal.

Despite fears over the impact of Brexit talks, the latest figures from the Department for International Trade show increasing numbers of new projects involving foreign direct investment, or FDI.

There were 171 new projects across the region last year – the most for three years, bringing in 9,424 jobs.

Baggies' Bob tees up top golf prize

FORMER Baggies goalkeeper Bob Ward won a charity golf day made up of ex-players. Mr Ward, who made 10 appearances for West Bromwich Albion from 1973 to 1977, took part in the annual golf day at Walsall Golf Club.

It was organised by the West Bromwich Albion Former Players Association. The team winner was one made up of workers at CPC Civils Ltd in Solihull.

Send your proms prints – and princesses

THE school discos of our yesteryear are well and truly assigned to the history books for the modern generation.

When school's out for students today they do not head for the hall in jeans and T-shirt to enjoy warm pop and a 'funky' teacher hitting the decks. Instead, they put on their ballgowns and black tie glamour for a night to remember – the school prom.

Dress hunting is a serious business as all girl wants to be the belle of the ball. And it's not just about dressing to impress. Transport is almost as important as youngsters strive to make the biggest impression.

So how much is this fairytale once-in-a-lifetime evening likely to set parents back? Well latest figures suggest we will spend an average of £500 on a daughter for prom night – and many will spend that on the dress alone. But with a tear in their eye and proudly clicking away with the camera, most parents will no doubt think it is money well spent.

Send us your pictures from these milestone events and we will carry as many as possible in the paper.

Email your picture with names of those in the snapshot as well as details of the school and where the event was to sue.attwater@expressandstar.co.uk

School proms season is upon us

Quirky display marks a medical milestone

By Charlotte Callear

A QUIRKY collection of medical equipment from the 1800s is on display to mark 70 years of the NHS.

From camphorated oil used to treat inflammation to oxygen tubes designed to look like glasses, the artefacts are made up of items from historian and former nurse Roy Stallard.

The avid collector has a display in the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton for visitors to see, set up to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

Among the display, there is a bedpan, enema set, ear syringe, thermometer and more, along with black and white photographs that provide a look into healthcare in the 1800s. There will also be a map on display to show where the current nurses come from in the world.

Legacy

There are two display units which will open from noon until 2pm for visitors to view. In a couple of months, this will later be expanded into a permanent display with 300 artefacts. He said: "I have a lot of pride in the NHS, it is an underfunded but wonderful institution.

"The hospital approached me and said they are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the NHS and asked if I would like to do something."

"This provides a legacy of instruments from the early 1800s which I have collected over the years because I find them fascinating.

The 84-year-old started training as a nurse as part of the medical corps for his national service in Germany in 1952. After two years with the Royal Army Medical Core's military hospital, he left and landed the job at the Royal in 1954 to train.

There are different photographs of nurses at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton

Roy Stallard with an 1848 nurses water jug

An early enema

Bed-blocking figures are at lowest in five years

BED-BLOCKING has been drastically cut to its lowest level in five years in part of the Black Country, new figures show.

Millions of pounds has gone into tackling delays in people leaving hospital. Last year Dudley Council was awarded £13.9 million from the Government's Improved Better Care Fund to spend over three years to tackle some of the most pressing issues in health and adult social care.

In the first year, the council committed to spending £7m introducing a package of measures to support older people to leave hospital or a 'step-down' setting – typically a bed in a care home so ongoing needs can be assessed – as soon as they are medically fit.

It has already had the desired impact with a noticeable reduction in the number of cases of delayed transfer of care, known as bed blocking, with beds being freed up quicker for those who need them most.

Figures show that there was only one case of delayed transfer compared to more than 400 in August last year – and only 12 from 'step-down' settings compared to more than 100 in August last year.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Thanks to this investment we have introduced a raft of measures that are having a big impact on our health and social care services.

"We are now in a better position to move people through the system and discharge them from hospital or a step-down setting when they are at their strongest and their independence is at its peak."

Serco warns of drop in profits

OUTSOURCER Serco has taken a hit to sales in the first half of its financial year, and warned that profitability will be knocked when it adopts healthcare contracts from Carillion.

The firm, which runs recycling and waste collection service for Sandwell Council , has said revenues came to £1.35 billion for the first half of the financial year, down from £1.51bn the year before – a drop of 10.6 per cent.

Serco's underlying trading profit will be between £35 million and £40m, the company said, compared with £34m in the previous year.

For the full year, revenues are expected to come in between £2.7bn and £2.8bn, with underlying trading profits of £80m. The company previously said revenues would be between £2.8bn and £2.9bn.

M976

25% Off valid on Irish Sea cruise ferry and Dublin Swift sailings up to 18 December 2018. Excludes following July & August sailings: Swift 11:30 & 14:15 and Epsilon 14:30 and 08:30 (Sat only). Must be booked online and 48 hours in advance of travel and by midnight Thursday 12 July 2018. New bookings only. Subject to availability. Not available in conjunction with any other offer or promotion including Tesco travel tokens. Standard terms and conditions of booking and travel apply. See irishferries.com for details.

Community efforts of leaders to be backed

A GROUP of religious leaders are to be recognised by police chiefs for their efforts in bringing together divided communities.

Faithful Friends, made up of Sikhs, Muslims and Christians, formed in 2015 in an attempt to unify people in their area. Their work has been shortlisted for the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Award.

Last year, members began taking each other on a tour of their 'special spiritual places' in an attempt to build understanding between faiths.

Locations ranged from a field in north Cornwall to Amritsar in India.

The group has also linked with schools via social media, filmed each visit and made four-minute videos that are now being shared with schoolchildren and even prisoners to try and change attitudes and bring people together.

Rev David Gould, from Holy Trinity Church in Smethwick, said: "The project was formed out of a desire to build trust and friendship between cultures and religions.

"When we began the project I never could have envisaged that it would have had such a great influence. We really appreciate all the support we've had from charities and councils alike." Commissioner David Jamieson added: "This project sums up everything that is good about the West Midlands. Our region is a wonderful mix of faiths."

M-way roadworks set to swap sides

WORK on a major repairs scheme which has caused huge disruption on the M5 is to be switched to the other carriageway later this month.

Repairs to the Oldbury Viaduct have seen traffic filtered into two narrow lanes between junctions 1 and 2 and the speed limit cut to 30mph.

It has led to long delays at busy periods from the link route to the M6. Vehicles will be moved onto the completed southbound carriageway so work to allow work to be done on the opposite side.

Concrete repairs and waterproofing work are currently taking place along a two-mile section of the ageing viaduct.

The switch is planned for the start of the summer school holidays.

Raid suspects held

THREE men have been arrested after a spate of Tesco stores were raided in Aldridge, Rowley Regis and Handsworth in the early hours.

Money and cigarettes was taken. The raid took place on Thursday.

MP backs MS sufferers' benefits fight

John Spellar, backing the campaign

A Sandwell MP has met with people living with multiple sclerosis to hear about the impact of the disability benefit, Personal Independence Payment (PIP). At an event in Parliament, Warley MP John Spellar heard about the consequences of PIP's 20 metre rule is having on people with multiple sclerosis (MS).

According to new research by the MS Society, the 20 metre rule is causing people with MS to lose support. The charity has calculated benefit cuts to people with MS are also costing the NHS at least an additional £7.7 million a year in GP and A&E services. Under the previous benefit, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) people who couldn't walk more than 50 metres were eligible for the higher rate of mobility support.

But under the new PIP, that measure has been reduced to 20 metres – with 95 per cent of people with MS who were receiving DLA getting the higher rate of mobility support, but under PIP it has fallen to just 66 per cent. The MS Society is urging people to sign a petition to Esther McVey, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, calling for the 20 metre rule to be scrapped. Mr Spellar said: "This rule change doesn't recognise the devastating and progressive nature of MS. It's time for a Government U-turn to reverse this injustice."

Genevieve Edwards, from the MS Society, said: "Contrary to the Government's insistence that PIP is meant to help those with the greatest needs, the truth is it's causing enormous harm to people with MS, with many losing their independence."

Visit www.mssociety.org.uk/scrap-20mrule

Troubled academy to be taken over by new trust

A TROUBLED academy is to be taken over by a new trust. The Ace Academy in Tipton has been in special measures for two years

It is to leave control of the Education Central Multi-Academy Trust (ECMAT), run by the University of Wolverhampton.

Leaders at the academy, which has more than 1,400 pupils, formerly known as the Alexandra School, were told by Ofsted in April that not enough progress was being made to exit special measures.

Parents have now been informed that the school will be taken over by another trust in an effort to bring about the improvement needed.

A statement from ECMAT, which has been shared with parents, said: "The Regional Schools Commissioner has been working closely with Education Central Multi-Academy Trust to consolidate its secondary sponsor activity, to ensure quality education and progression for young people.

"As a result, approval has been given in principle for the transfer of the Ace Academy from Education Central Multi-Academy Trust to Quaerere Academies Trust.

"This is subject to a successful conclusion to discussions between the Department for Education, the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Education Central Multi-Academy Trust and Quaerere Academies Trust.

"In the interim period, both academy trusts are working together to support pupils and staff of the academy to ensure a smooth and successful transition."

A series of parent evenings have been organised to discuss the changes.

In a letter to parents, interim headteacher Kerry Kernan said: "I hope we can rely on your support during this time of transition and look forward to welcoming you to our parent evenings. At these you will be able to hear about the plans."

The Ace Academy, which is rated inadequate by Ofsted, has been beset by problems since converting to academy status, including attendance, behaviour and high staff turnover. In January, it emerged concerns had been raised about the academy's finances.

Human chain protest over shops plan

Protesters form a human chain against the development of Lion Farm playing fields in Oldbury

A HUMAN chain was formed on playing fields in Oldbury which protesters are determined to prevent being developed into a shopping centre.

"Shops are closing down, there's no evidence anyone actually wants to come to Oldbury," said acting chairman of The Friends of Lion Farm Playing Fields Pete Durnell.

Residents gathered on the greenfield site last Wednesday evening to form a human chain across the playing fields, with up to 100 people linking hands.

Mr Durnell added: "There's a brownfield site up the road, which has had full planning permission for outlets for two years. But not a stone has been turned to achieve that. We feel like Sandwell Council are just pushing this through without any thought."

A formal planning application from Jeremy George Knight-Adams Plc is expected to be made to Sandwell Council later this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sun and Sand-well for summer hols

NEW Square Shopping Centre in West Bromwich is to run a summer school holiday programme of family entertainment.

The Summer Fun events run at the town centre shops complex from July 21 to September 2 between 11am and 5pm each day.

It will include a beach area with deck chairs and a fair with rides and games. There will be a chance to win prizes and discounts from New Square shops and restaurants.

Profits raised from the fairground rides will be donated to Kaleidoscope Plus Group, the centre's charity of the year.

Family tributes to death crash rider

THE family of an Oldbury motorcyclist, killed in a crash near Stourbridge, have paid tribute to the 'wonderful, funny man'. Patrick Hendy, aged 48, died when his Triumph was involved in a crash with a Mercedes C180 on the A458 Bridgnorth Road, near Stourton, at 1pm on June 23.

He suffered serious injuries and died at the scene, near the Fox Inn. In a statement his family said: "Patrick was a beloved husband, father, son, brother and friend, who will be greatly missed."Any witnesses are asked to call the police on 101.

BGT stars due at relaunch of hall

BRITAIN'S Got Talent stars are set to head to Darlaston to dazzle crowds of their fans. This year's winner, the Lost Voice Guy Lee Ridley, runner-up Robert White, and finalist Mickey P Kerr, will all be performing at the relaunch of Darlaston Town Hall.

It will take place on December 9 and will also feature CAN Comedy brothers from Wednesbury, Andy and Paul Nightingale, who are promoting the event and will host the show as The Cheeky Blinders.

For tickets, go to the website www.wegottickets.com/event/443734.

Taking reins for War Horse show in Brum

A LIFE-SIZE War Horse puppet stopped off at historic canalside stables in Birmingham before heading to the Hippodrome later this year.

Following eight record-breaking years in London's West End and having played in 11 countries, the National Theatre's acclaimed play War Horse comes to the city centre venue from October 10 to November 3. To celebrate, the star of War Horse visited the Grade II listed Roundhouse.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Scorcher? Time to call the winter warmer line

EXCUSE the low standard of photography. Unfortunately the blistering sunshine caused by the longest heatwave since 1976 meant there was a lot of reflective glare in the windows of Dudley Council's offices when I took this picture.

Window poster

Anyway, if you can't see it clearly, it is a poster warning about the dangers of living in a cold home. Apparently it's bad for your health, with children particularly at risk of bronchitis, asthma and mental health problems. It's so bad that the council has set up a winter warmth hotline. If you are shivering in your freezing home this week, don't hesitate to dial 01384 817086. That's local government for you. On the ball as ever.

❒❒❒

JOHN Sparry, the popular Black Country historian, broadcaster and raconteur, has written a book about some of the interesting characters from his old school, King Edward VI Grammar, in Stourbridge.

He certainly has plenty of material. While the book focuses largely on literary figures, the father of the modern dictionary, Samuel Johnson, writers Bob Adey and David Gray, as well as the cartoonist Paul Sellers, former pupils include Battle of Britain hero Mike Cooper-Slipper, actor Anthony Bate, and rock star Robert Plant.

Our school days invariably leave a big impression on our lives. Which is why I was saddened to learn that my old school, High Arcal in Dudley, is to change its name to Beacon Hill Academy.

Now while my old school hardly compares with King Ed – founded in 1961 rather than 1552, and its notable alumni limited to a couple of politicians and a diplomat – the High Arcal name has served it perfectly well for 57 years, so why change it now?

Even more depressingly, the old Dudley Grammar School, which traces its history back to 1452, is changing its name for the second time in less than 30 years. Renamed Castle High School in 1989, it will now be St James's Academy.

The former Willenhall Comprehensive a few years ago changed its name to the funkier E-Act Academy. Last year it received a less-than-glowing Ofsted report, in no small part down to the fact that its pupils threw food at the inspectors. Good to know rebranding did the trick.

Water, water everywhere...but for how long?

Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer – old pals act with a different angle

Nye Bevan – as Britain marks 70 years of his NHS, we stand on the threshold of Brexit

John Cleese during his Monty Python heyday, but would he get the gig on today's BBC?

Sting in the tale of a British heatwave

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE worms may be shrivelling and the frogs dehydrating but one species is having a vintage year. I give you the horse fly, that drab little lover of human flesh. A couple of days ago one drove its pointy thing deep into my knee. From past experience this will create a scab, to be prodded and picked for months to come and providing harmless entertainment as the nights draw in. A horse-fly bite, the gift that keeps on giving.

I CANNOT be the only one genuinely surprised that there is not a nationwide hosepipe ban. It's like the savannah out there.

SAD to see so many sufferers attending the National Amnesia Day march in London. There were about 100,000 of them, all calling for a "People's Vote," having entirely forgotten we had it two years ago. Poor devils.

IT'S always good to see old friends having a laugh, as Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse do in Gone Fishing (BBC2). And yet for outsiders the old mystery of coarse fishing is as perplexing as ever. You spend hours catching the fish and taking it out of the water. Then you put it back in again. Hmm.

THERE is life beyond London and I bet many of us on the blasted heath we call the provinces are puzzled at the time, money and energy spent on the future of Heathrow. How many Brits actually use the place? Since the 1970s I have flown all over the world on dozens of occasions for business, holidays and with the military but I doubt if I've used Heathrow more than two or three times. The UK has lots of other places where airliners can take off and land perfectly well, so why this obsession with cramming so many eggs into one basket?

WHITEHALL has decided not to build five new female prisons but to erect much cheaper "residential centres" instead. This reflects a view deeply held in the criminal-justice system, that men are evil but women just have syndromes. Ironically, the announcement of the new facilities came the day after Sabrina Kouiser and her boyfriend were jailed for life at the Old Bailey for the murder, after 12 days of "pitiless" torture, of their au pair. They burned the body in their garden. Pure evil may be rarer among females than males but it undeniably exists and should be locked away for years, not in some cosy semi-hotel but behind the iron bars of a good, old-fashioned jail.

BY pure chance, the struggle to get out of the clutches of the European Union coincides with events to mark the 70th anniversary of Britain embracing the National Health Service. The NHS was a step into the unknown. It divided the nation. It was opposed by many "experts" who backed down only when Nye Bevan famously "stuffed their mouths with gold." The result, in global terms, is a middling sort of health service which is not terribly expensive and is good in some parts, but poor in others. We are supposed to be very proud of it, yet we all have our horror stories about it. But on balance we're glad we took the step into the NHS. And I dare say Brexit will be much the same. Not perfect but better than what we had before.

POSTERS for a pub beer and gin festival remind me how popular gin has become recently. On holiday, I couldn't help noticing that the brilliant little village store in Corfe Castle boasts of having 100 brands of gin. This may answer an old question: what do folk in sleepy holiday villages do during the long, dark winters?

IS he having a laugh? Head of BBC Comedy Shane Allen says the Monty Python team would not make it on the Beeb today because they are 'six Oxbridge white blokes'. But I can't recall a time when humour has been so dominated by upmarket white performers. Stand-up comedy, once the preserve of working-class comics, is now the happy hunting ground of privately-educated stars. A study of 42 episodes of Have I Got News For You (BBC) revealed that all but one of the guests had been to private schools. Maybe things are changing but I bet if John Cleese, Eric Idle, Michael Palin and the rest of the Pythons graduated from uni tomorrow, they'd be snapped up by today's comedy producers because, whatever we may think about privilege, posh is still popular.

TALKING POINT

Upwardly mobile pupil gets top marks

THE name Andreea-Denisa Ciubotaru is hardly one that rolls off the tongue. However, the teenager should be commended.

Regular Talking Point readers may recall a colleague's view on mobile phone use around the dining table, making the point that social time was disrupted by people checking for messages, sending texts or using Facebook, for example, when conversation should be flowing between friends or family.

So it is heartening to hear 16-year-old Andreea-Denisa willingly go without her mobile phone during class time. The schoolgirl, from Barking, asked her headteacher to put her iPhone in the school safe so she could study for exams without being distracted by selfies. The device spent a month locked away and the move looked to have paid off with her GCSE grades predicted to rise from a C to an A. She was quoted as saying: "Everyone knows how addictive phones can be. I've told all my friends to get rid of theirs."

It comes as the head of schools' regulatory body Ofsted backed headteachers who ban phones in class, citing their use as being responsible for unruly behaviour.

Amanda Spielman says the use of smartphones in the classroom is 'dubious' at best and is not convinced of the educational benefits of Snapchat and the like. Culture secretary Matt Hancock has backed the stance, admitting he admires school heads who prevent pupils from using phones all day.

There's no doubt that phones can have an educational appeal and can be a valuable revision tool. But out of school time and away from the desk, please.

Can any child really say they use mobiles sensibly while at school? I would argue that a primary school child's need for a phone is minimal anyway. Certainly, older children, who make their own way to and from school, or who may need to stay behind, would require them to keep in touch with parents.

But I do wonder what these children with their fancy gadgets do at break times. Probably texting or keeping up to date with social media instead of properly interacting with their friends like we did.

It's no coincidence that even Silicon Valley executives send their children to technology-free schools, while Bill Gates and Steve Jobs limited screen time for their own children knowing how addictive they could be. Schools in this country should take heed and keep phones out of the classroom.

MARK SHIPP

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Social care crisis must be addressed

SOCIAL care cannot be undervalued and underfunded any longer. Here in Anchor care homes, we have been highlighting a social care crisis for years, and we now face a dangerous shortfall in the number of carers to support our ageing population and vulnerable adults.

Today, we unite to urge the Government to value social care and the indispensable contribution the workforce makes to society. The social care sector faces a potential shortfall of up to 1.1 million carers by 2037.

The Government must take responsibility. We have been waiting for the social care Green Paper this summer, in the hope it contains answers to the impending crisis. We are therefore concerned to hear that this Green Paper has been delayed until the autumn.

We need a public awareness campaign to raise the profile of care, sustainable funding, and recognition of the hard work that so many people working in social care do.

SUSAN SHELLEY, MANAGER
Bloomfield Court
Tipton. Anchor.org.uk

VAR-ying levels of ire

HAVING watched the match involving Portugal it is clear that VAR is dead in the water it obviously stands for Very Atrocious Rulings.

FIFA must find the backbone to scrap it with immediate effect it is bringing the game further into the gutter than the cheats that they refuse to stamp out have already taken it.

If FIFA do not pull the plug on VAR they demonstrate that they have no interest in the game of Association Football one must question the qualities of some of those 'referees' that are supposed to be looking at VAR and be asked are you looking at it or are you cheating.

If FIFA refuse to act then the president and his merry men should be charged with bringing the game into disrepute.

EWART J JOHNSON
Smethwick

Look again at lessons of history

IF Roger Watts thinks Brexiters have closed eyes and ears (Letters 20th June) I would suggest that he has a closed mind. In every one of his many letters we are subjected to his opinions yet he refuses to accept any converse arguments.

Yes Roger, many others suffered in WWII, but this was the result of the actions of a megalomaniac and his followers who wished to dominate Europe.

Dunkirk was only setback not a loss, and the 'Battle of Britain' which followed was far from a defeat when we stood alone for over two years before the Americans joined us.

Yes, we had an empire and many of its members fought valiantly with us during the conflict. However this was formed many years before the conflict.

If you look more thoroughly into history you will find that France, Holland, Spain and Germany also had similar foreign possessions.

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
Great Barr

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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China syndrome of manufactured goods

WHAT do we make in this country? My daughter bought me a Russell Hobbs kettle and toaster for Christmas, on the box – made in China. I bought a Goodmans radio not long ago – made in China, also a spade, again made in China.

I went into a garden centre the other day and the mugs and table were all marked made in China. Even a tyre for my car. The one last year was made in Poland. On the TV you see police cars that are BMW's and ambulances that are Mercedes. Our own JLR isn't that to do with Tata who owns our steel works? And House of Fraser, hasn't China got a hand in that too? Railway engines made in Japan, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Spain make our trams we run right here. We used to make railway engines at one time for the rest of the world. What's gone wrong with this country of ours?

MR F H JENNINGS
Birmingham

Trucks blamed but so needed

THINGS seem to have got quieter in regard to potholes. Could the problem be with the way roads are made nowadays? Also, the vehicles using the roads nowadays certainly do not help the situation. In those days of rigids, the most number of axles in general was four. Compare that to the artics now using the roads with up to nine axles and scrubbing the road surfaces. Is there a simple solution? Perhaps get more goods moved by rail, but where are the rail lines?

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

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Runners are banking on fundraiser

A GROUP of 16 employees from Deutsche Bank's Birmingham office have signed up to take part in the Simplyhealth Great Birmingham Run Business Challenge.

Sharon Baker, was the first to sign up for what will be her first half marathon and she has recruited a further 15 runners so that two Business Challenge teams can be entered for the event.

The teams will be raising funds for Cure Leukaemia, one of Deutsche Bank's Charities of the Year, with every penny contributing to Deutsche Bank Birmingham's target of £50,000 in 2018 to fund a specialist research nurse for 12 months.

Sharon said: "I'm really excited to be taking part in my first half marathon later this year.

"I'd never run properly before this year – maybe for the bus or to the chip shop – but my fitness and mental health has noticeably improved and I enjoyed the 10K so much I really want to test myself over 13.1miles.

"I'm starting my half marathon training with the running group I joined for the 10k (Absolute Beginners) and a few of my club mates will also be running."

To sponsor Sharon see https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sharon-baker24

All aboard for Fab Four's sub adventure

SPECIAL 50th anniversary screenings of the Beatles' newly-restored animated movie Yellow Submarine are being held at Birmingham's Electric Cinema

It is being shown on July 13 at 8.50pm and the following day at 6pm and can be experienced in surround sound. It features classics such as Nowhere Man, Eleanor Rigby and All You Need is Love.

Pay £61k or it's extra year in jail, fraudster is warned

A FRAUDSTER who was jailed for selling illegal cigarettes from his shop has been told to pay back £61,000 or face another year behind bars.

Arkani Muradi, aged 37, was caught hiding almost 400,000 cigarettes in the Wolverhampton shop – behind false walls, under floorboards, beneath a fridge and in a hole in a wall in March, 2015. Muradi, of Highfield Road, Great Barr, was jailed in June 2017 for 26 months for evading £58,675 in tax.

He has now been ordered to pay back £61,022 within three months or he will face another year in jail and still owe the money when released.

Debbie Porter, assistant director of the Fraud Investigation Service at HMRC, said: "Muradi tried to conceal illegal cigarettes in every possible hiding place of his shop then desperately tried to lie his way out. This case should serve as a warning to others involved in the illegal cigarette trade.

"It takes funding away from essential public services, undermines legitimate traders and often funds further organised crime. I would urge anyone with any information about this type of criminality to contact our Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887."

During the investigation, Muradi claimed to be a sales assistant and not the owner of his Euro Shop, in Newhampton Road West, Wolverhampton. He also gave a false name when officers raided his shop and a storage unit he had hired using an alias. HMRC officers, working with Trading Standards, also recovered 36 kilograms of hand-rolling tobacco and 195 bottles of alcohol at the premises.

Judge Barry Berlin, speaking at the time when he jailed Muradi, said: "A feature of this case is you seem to blame all your staff for your own activities."

Shortlisted carer Valerie 'speechless'

Service manager Valerie with one of the residents at Mary Street Extra Care Service

AN inspirational woman who was the driving force behind a unique care scheme for elderly people has been shortlisted for a national award.

Valerie Paragon is the service manager at Mary Street Extra Care Service, which is managed by Friendship Care and Housing.

The centre, in Balsall Heath, Birmingham, provides support for up to 20 elderly residents – many of whom are living with dementia – who choose to live as independently and happily as possible within an African Caribbean culture.

Valerie has now been shortlisted for the Woman of the Year award at the 2018 Women in Housing Award, which celebrates the achievements of outstanding women working in the housing sector.

Valerie said: "When I heard about the nomination and the shortlist for this award, I was absolutely speechless. And anyone who knows me will tell you that is a first."

Valerie first started working at Mary Street in 1997 as a senior support worker before leaving two years later, only to return in 2001. She has been there ever since. She leads and inspires Mary Street's team of staff to deliver a heartfelt service to those in her care.

The carer will find out if she has won the award in October.

Reports on potholes are above 2,000

MORE than 2,000 potholes have been reported in the Sandwell borough in the first six months of the year, figures have revealed.

A Freedom of Information request to Sandwell Council showed that 2,103 potholes were reported to them between January 1 and June 11 this year – nearly double compared with the same period in 2017, when from January 1 to June 30, there were 1,320 individual potholes reported.

In 2018, the highest number of individual potholes reported were 521 in April, followed by 449 in March and 428 in January, according to the figures.

A total of 2,386 were reported for the whole of 2015, compared to 2,073 in 2016. It comes as it was revealed in April, that a cash-strapped Sandwell Council has paid out almost £65,000 in compensation to road users over injuries from potholes.

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Communication (turn taking, initiation, expressive and receptive)
Social skills (education on social situations, increasing confidence, community engagement)

Education (access courses, increasing awareness of your own mental health)
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Cognitive skills (organising, memory, orientation, sequencing)
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Royal Park

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The service offers both short and long term placements for residents. This can mean intensive assessment periods for some residents but for others, this may mean an environment which fully understands the longer term needs of people with neurological conditions, a brain or spiral injury, as well as artificial ventilation and tracheostomies.

On admission, a resident would participate in a full assessment of need, offering a baseline from each of the therapy disciplines.

Each person is then supported by the therapy team to set realistic and achievable goals, which all work towards the person's longer term objective.

The catering team provide daily menus, catering for personal tastes, religious and specific dietary requirements. All meals are healthy, well balanced and enjoyable.

At Royal Park, the team offers a balance between a clinical but homely environment and aims aim for everyone to feel welcome and equally involved in the running of the service. This also includes the family, friends or residents, as well as external professionals.

Trinity Court

Trinity Court is a purpose-built service that focuses on the needs and recovery of people with enduring mental health needs at varying times in their recovery journey. A spokesman said: "Our 15-bed service has a unique balance of both clinical and non-clinical staff. Our therapy lead is an experienced Occupational Therapist, who alongside our RMN Unit Manager, ensures the recovery process is instilled in the day to day running of the home. Our use of Goal Attainment Scaling, WRAP and NOHO ensure the correct assessment tools are utilised at the correct point in a person's recovery process.

"The service benefits from 24-hour nurse support, with the overall aim of the service being to enable individuals to gain as much independence as possible, with an individual's potential being maximised and goals set at a pace that is suitable for the person.

"We are able to support intense short term placements through to longer term placements."

Thugs chase boy for his new birthday bike

A COWARDLY gang of thugs chase two young cyclists before stealing their bikes in footage captured by security cameras.

The yobs can be seen prowling through the streets near Red House Park in Great Barr just as two young boys cycle past them.

The group immediately start chasing them round the corner and out of sight of the cameras.

The victims are then seen running back the way they came along without their bikes – the yobs close on their heels.

It is believed that one of the victims had celebrated his 12th birthday recently and had received the black mountain bike as his present.

Shaken

He was said to be left devastated after losing his bike, so soon after he received the present.

The two boys – both aged 12 – were said to be left shaken by the incident.

CCTV footage from the scene captured the two boys making their way along Hill Lane on their bikes, past a gang of six teenagers – some of them hooded.

West Midlands Police confirmed they were investigating the incident that happened on Saturday, June 24

A spokesman for the force said: "It is believed around six teenagers, approached the boy at 7pm on Saturday before pushing him and leaving without his bike."

Any witnesses or anyone with information about the incident is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101, quoting log 659 of June 24.

A photo of the birthday present bike

The boys fleeing on the CCTV footage

The CCTV footage shows the terrifying incident unfold with the yobs nearby

ADVERTORIAL

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The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches.

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country. Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

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Light relief after man rescued off lamp post

The fire service in action after the man climbed the lamp post. Picture: West Midlands Fire Service/Handsworth Fire Station

A MAN thought to have taken an illegal high became stuck at the top of a lamp post and had to be helped down by firefighters. A member of the public called 999 to alert emergency services to the scene in Birmingham.

Somehow the man had scaled the 32ft (10m) lamp and became stranded at the top for up to an hour.

Two fire crews were called to Grove Lane near Holly Road, Handsworth, and used a hydraulic platform to reach the man and bring him down.

A spokesman said they had no idea how he got there.

The fire service tweeted he had taken an "illegal high" and the incident could have "ended very differently."

West Midlands Ambulance Service said they were called to reports of a man in "a precarious position at the top of a lamppost" just before 10pm on Saturday.

He was treated for a hand injury and taken to Sandwell Hospital.

Bedsits may come in above area shops

A ROW of properties running over shops in Bearwood will be turned into bedsits, under new plans.

Elevens separate plans have been lodged to convert a huge part of the high street on Bearwood Road into houses of multiple occupation, but the move has sparked concern from a councillor.

By Dayna Farrington

But the proposals by applicant Green Room Properties Limited have sparked concern from a councillor who fears the plan is 'over-development'.

The plans were due to be discussed at Sandwell Council's planning committee meeting, which was held yesterday, but councillors look set to visit the site before allowing the scheme to go ahead.

Councillor Bob Piper, ward councillor for the area and also who sits on the committee, said there is no parking facilities for the bedsits in an area where parking is at a "premium".

The applications are for the proposed change of use and refurbishment of first and second floors to accommodate a house in multiple occupation with four single occupancy rooms, together with bicycle parking facilities, refuse and recycling storage and an external staircase to the rear.

Councillor Piper said: "I sit on the planning committee but I have given notice of my intention to remove myself from the committee in order to object to these planss."

A report to the committee said: "The application has been reported to the committee at an early stage to enable members to visit the site. This is a summary report only and does not seek to assess the proposals. A full report will be prepared for the committee meeting on August 8."

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Festival honours the struggle for women's rights

THE proud history of chainmaking in the Black Country will be celebrated this weekend.

The Chainmakers' Festival in Cradley Heath, which has been running for more than a decade, was inspired by the 1910 struggle for a minimum wage by the women chainmakers of the town, led by Mary Macarthur.

The event has the distinction of being the first trade festival dedicated to female trade unionists.

Eleanor Smith, MP for Wolverhampton South West, and Sarah Carpenter, the Unite union's head of health, will be amongst the guest speaker at the event on Saturday. It will also feature music, comedy, street theatre, stalls, children's activities and a fun fair.

Activities will be split across two sites, with activities taking place on Cradley Heath High Street, culminating in a Workers' Picnic in Mary Macarthur Gardens.

TUC Midlands' regional secretary Lee Barron said: "We are delighted that we have leading trade unionists and politicians joining us for the festival. This year is a special year as we mark 100 years of female suffrage.

"As ever, it is absolutely right that we celebrate the role of female trade unionists and to use events such as the Chainmakers' Festival to continue to raise awareness of the challenges facing women today."

Concert celebrates 100 years of vote

A COFFEE concert at a town centre Halesowen church will celebrate 100 years since women got the vote.

The Pankhurst Anthem will be performed as part of the concert in St John the Baptist Church in High Street on Saturday, July 21, at 10.15am.

Beach party for Jacy Blunt, aged four, and Lucy Gamage from Dudley

Having fun in the sun at Himley under-5s day

Punch & Judy man Ron Popple with Bobby Thompson and Lyndsey Griffiths

Having an 'a maze in' time is Vida McNeela, four, from Tipton

Craft fun for Amber Stanley from Oldbury

Donkey rides for Krishna Khanna, three, and Karmen Khanna, at Himley Hall

Fun in the sun for under-fives

THOUSANDS turned out to enjoy the sun and fun at the annual under 5s day on Friday at Himley Hall and Park.

It's estimated more than 3,000 children and their families attended the popular Dudley Council event, which featured activities and entertainment for young children.

The park's specially brought in beach made a popular return with many children having bucket and spade fun building sandcastles whilst elsewhere little ones laughed along in delight at the Punch and Judy Shows. The land train, donkey rides and children's funfair also went down well with youngsters.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said: "What a perfect day we've had for under 5s day. The sun shone and our younger visitors have enjoyed a fantastic day out in the beautiful grounds of Himley Hall.

"Thanks to everyone who came along to support the event and to all the organisations that helped make the day such a success.

Other activities during the day included Baby & Toddler Sense, Music Bugs, Rugby Tots, Creation Station, Kung fu cubs, Moo music, Hartbeeps and Baby Ballet.

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It's no drama for famous pair as they pick up honours

SOAP stars Catherine Tyldesley and Tom Lister were two of the famous faces at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as part of their annual prize-giving ceremony. The two stars, both Royal Birmingham Conservatoire graduates, were awarded Honorary Fellowships from Birmingham City University, while alumnus Corey Campbell was given an Honorary Membership.

Honorary Fellowships are given to those who act as an inspiration for the university's students, as examples of people who have forged an outstanding career in music, acting and the related arts.

Alongside Catherine and Tom, they were also awarded to singer Christine Cairns, jazz composer and musician Nikki Iles, double bassist and luthier (stringed instrument maker) Thomas Martin and Chinese guitarist Xuefei Yang.

Coronation Street star Catherine, who graduated from the Birmingham School of Acting in 2006, said: "My training at Birmingham School of Acting was priceless. I use the techniques I learned there every day as a working actor. The tuition was second to none and I remain ever grateful for the time and belief the tutors invested in me. A life changing experience."

Appearing in between performances of current West End smash '42nd Street' was actor Tom Lister, who played Carl King on ITV's 'Emmerdale' for nine years from 2004. Since graduating from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2001, Tom has appeared in various screen and stage productions, while also raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity by carrying out extreme sporting challenges.

Tom Lister and Catherine Tyldesley, with their honorary fellowships

Driver, aged 27, dies after car hits a tree

A MAN has died after his car hit a tree. The Seat Ibiza crashed in Linden Road, Bournville in Birmingham, shortly before 3.50am on Saturday.

The 27-year-old was taken to hospital but died as a result of his injuries. His family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers.

Police closed the road while initial investigations were carried out.

Pc Mark Crozier, from West Midland Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: "Our sympathies are with the man's family and we fully appreciate the pain they are going through. We are in the early stages of trying to establish how this occurred and are asking for anyone with information to speak to us.

"I would ask for anyone who was in the area around the time of this collision and may have seen or heard anything to make contact with us." Anyone with information can call officers on 101, quoting incident log 460.

'Toxic' fake dolls couple jailed for 10 months

A COUPLE are beginning 10-month jail terms for peddling counterfeit goods, including fake Disney dolls, some of which were potentially toxic.

Lee Scully and Tracey Cockbill ignored Trading Standards warnings and switched to the Facebook Trade and Sell website when Amazon removed their selling rights, a judge heard.

By John Scott

The pair, who have three children between them, hawked fake Frozen and Cinderella dolls, Android TV boxes – claiming 'Free Sky TV for ever' – and Android tables with false trademarks, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Analysis of dolls they sold found the level of chemical phthalates, giving flexibility to plastics, was at least 20 per cent. It should not have had a concentration greater than 0.1t. An sample Android charger sold by the defendants failed safety checks because of its pin configuration, it was said.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting on behalf of Sandwell Trading Standards, said: "We do not say they sold the items knowing they were toxic but they ran an internet business on a commercial scale. Through it they sold unsafe counterfeit dolls that were potentially toxic and electrical products that were also unsafe."

Scully, aged 38 and Cockbill, 40, previously of Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge but now living in Prestatyn, each admitted eight offences involving breaches of copyright, trademark and safety rules. The couple, who have three children between them, were officially told about the dangers of dealing with fake goods in January 2013 and September 2014, respectively. Amazon suspended their selling rights in June 2014 six months before a TV warning about potentially toxic bogus Disney dolls being offered for sale in this country.

Mr Jackson continued: "The defendants knew by December 2014 that at least some of the dolls being imported from China were potentially dangerous." When addresses linked to the couple were searched four months later it was discovered a delivery of 100 Cinderella dolls from China sent to Scully were waiting for collection.

Mr Iain Suggett, defending, told the court: "This was not counterfeit from the outset. They have fallen foul of their own ignorance."

Scully and Cockbill, each admitted eight offences involving breaches of copyright, trademark, toy safety and electrical safety rules.

MP's anger over M6 Toll price rise

THE latest increase in prices on the M6 Toll has been lambasted by a Labour MP. Former Transport Minister John Spellar said he was outraged after Midland Expressway Ltd (MEL) announced price rises of up to 50p for cars and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) on the controversial route.

Warley MP Mr Spellar, a long-time opponent of the toll, said: "This is just the latest episode in the sorry saga of the public being held to ransom by greedy bosses at the M6 Toll. This rotten deal was flawed from the start by the giveaway terms set by John Major's Government .

"The latest increase is another slap in the face for drivers and will add to the congestion on the rest of the network."

The price changes are set to come into effect from July 30.

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GASTRONOMES are invited to try out mouth-watering offerings at one of the region's leading venues, The Belfry Hotel and Resort.

The renowned Ryder Grill restaurant's tasting evenings get under way, held on the first Thursday of every month.

Awarded England's Leading Resort at The World Travel Awards for three consecutive years, The Belfry has developed a name for excellence in the hospitality industry, attracting visitors from all over the world.

Head Chef, Ryan Swift offers a fresh culinary flair to the popular evenings, which are available from £45 a head, with a sumptuous six-course menu featuring a selection of favourites, all packed with the finest seasonal produce.

Creativity

Ryan said: "The tasting evenings provide a real opportunity to quite literally bring my creativity to the table and create some truly unique dishes.

"The response has been tremendous so far and we are looking forward to getting more creative and bring the best possible dishes to the upcoming events."

The tasting menus are carefully crafted to utilise the best of seasonal ingredients, with the upcoming July menu celebrating ricotta, salmon, skate, lamb, cherry and lemon followed by heritage potatoes, salmon, cauliflower, duck, meringue and peach in August.

Limited spaces are available at each tasting evening. For more information or to book a table, please call 01675 238 600, email enquiries@thebelfry.com or visit www.thebelfry.com.

Lightly cooked salmon, with beetroot in horseradish buttermilk

A chance to try delicious ricotta with wild garlic and watercress

The Ryder Grill restaurant, offering unique tasting evenings at the Belfry

Grand line-up of entertainment

A NEW season of shows has been announced for Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre – complete with productions starring celebs such as Tony Christie, Lemar and Brendan Cole.

Top shows on the bill, meanwhile, will include Dirty Dancing, Cats, Madagascar The Musical, and Rock Of Ages. Following his role in Ladies Day at the city centre theatre this July, Amarillo singer Tony Christie will return to the Grand for a full, live concert on November 3.

Tickets for the new season's shows go on sale at 11am on June 29 for online and telephone bookings.

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Men arrested over raids after police chase

THREE men have been arrested after a spate of Tesco stores were raided in the region. Stores in Aldridge, Rowley Regis and Handsworth were targeted in the early hours.

A large quantity of cash and cigarettes were stolen from the shops but the tracker in a stolen cash box alerted officers to a location in Handsworth Wood Road. It was at this location where three men, aged 25, 33 and 34, were arrested on suspicion of burglary and remain in police custody.

The raids took place in the early hours of Thursday morning. West Midlands Police is appealing for anyone who saw the incident to contact them on 101. A force spokesperson said: "Three men have been arrested for burglary after a series of break-ins in the early hours of June 28. The tracker in a stolen cash box alerted officers to a location in Handsworth Wood Road and after a foot chase three men, aged 25, 33 and 34, were arrested on suspicion of burglary and were held in custody."

Fire crews tackle huge blaze at recycling plant

MORE than 30 firefighters battled a major blaze involving 3,000 tons of rubber at a West Bromwich waste treatment plant.

West Midlands Fire Service had initially sent six engines to the fire but even more were needed when the scale of the blaze was realised.

A further two engines were sent to the recycling plant in Brandon Way, West Bromwich. It was initially reported that recycling material and oil were on fire at the site, but a West Midlands Fire Service spokesman confirmed it was 3,000 tons of rubber product that had caught alight.

The fire was spotted at around 8.30pm on Friday and a crew was still at the scene on Sunday afternoon) to ensure the fire was out. An investigation is under way into the cause of the fire.

On Friday night, station commander Lee Baker tweeted from the scene: "Fire at waste recycling plant in Brandon Way, West Bromwich, eight pumps and hydraulic platform in attendance.

"West Midlands Fire crews working hard to contain the fire and protect business."

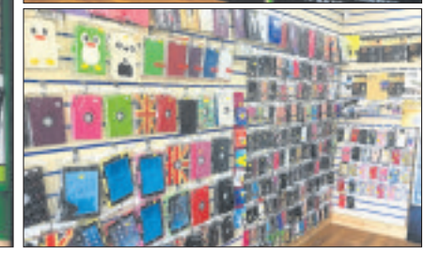
By 3am on Saturday morning four crews were still in attendance. Then, by 9am station commander Baker confirmed there were two pumps still at the site.

On Saturday morning, he said: "The damage to the building is due to be assessed today. It was contained within one large open sided metal structure."

Hydraulic platform, left and hoses, right. Pictures: West Midlands Fire Service

West Bromwich fire station crew commander, Scott Weldon, said on Saturday morning that the crews were damping down the site due to the amount of recycling waste in the building and were expected to remain on site for the rest of the day.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE



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Helping mums-to-be address their smoking

STARTLING figures show that one in 10 mums-to-be in Sandwell and West Birmingham smoke during their pregnancy.

But midwife Sarah Potter is hoping a new study may help these women quit the habit.

The Research Midwife, at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust, is recruiting into the PREP (Pregnancy Trial of E-cigarettes and Patches) study, which looks into whether using these alternative forms will help expectant mums quit or reduce smoking.

"It's a very important study," explained Sarah. "The outcome will help us to identify efficient ways to tackle smoking in pregnancy and help improve the wellbeing of mothers and their babies."

Miscarriage

She added: "We know that smoking during pregnancy can cause a number of problems for babies, such as miscarriage, stillbirth and cot death.

"Therefore, when this study was introduced, my team didn't hesitate to join it."

As well as taking part in the national study, Sarah and her team also play an important role in recruiting patients for research in Ophthalmology and Rheumatology – so it's no surprise to learn that Sarah's schedule is quite busy.

She said: "I'm lucky that my job is so varied.

"I get to meet different people to discuss projects and I can then explain to patients the research that we are carrying out and how they can contribute if they want to.

"No two days are the same for me and I absolutely enjoy it. I truly believe that research is the way forward in making a difference to the way patients are treated.

"I'm really proud of my team as they have been doing so well in promoting the work that we are doing.

"We recently organised lots of activity around International Clinical Trials Day to raise public awareness of Research and Development (R&D) at our Trust.

"It was a great day and we received many questions from the public and staff about how they can contribute more to R&D.

"Our organisation recruited nearly 3,000 people last year to many national and local studies and that's such a huge achievement."

Sarah has been a research midwife for four years and has made a great difference in helping the organisation promote R&D. Her role started off as a secondment.

She said: "After being part of many studies, I can see first-hand how research makes such a difference to the mothers and babies that we look after on such a large scale.

"I decided to apply for a permanent role to become a research midwife, so not only I could make a difference to the patients that we look after at our Trust, but also to thousands across the country."

Sarah was quick to name her colleagues as her heroes: "I admire all the front line NHS staff as they are the backbone of the whole system.

"They are the ones that make sure everything happens and they always go the extra mile to look after patients. They are my NHS Heroes."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

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Visitors feel the force of Lego show

BY DAYNA FARRINGTON

A STAR Wars-themed Lego exhibition on display in the West Midlands has attracted the attention of a publication from a galaxy far, far away.

Jedi News, an online magazine followed by thousands of Star Wars fans, interviewed the creator of the Himley Hall exhibition, Amor Lamine, from Lower Gornal.

It is hoped the publicity will attract more people to the Dudley Council-owned venue to see what is on offer with plenty happening as we head towards the summer holidays.

Feedback

Electrician Amor, aged 45, took about 18 months to build the collection, which went on display earlier this year.

Star Wars fans can view a series of themed displays including an Ewok village, space station, and a desert and ice plateau staged with figures and vehicles.

Lego versions of gunships, including the Imperial Star Destroyer and Millennium Falcon, a Sandcrawler and Jabba the Hut's Palace are also featured.

Individual Lego figures include Bobba Fett, Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and Chewbacca, plus a range of Strom Troopers, Droids and Ewoks.

Models made of Lego include Yoda, a life size Darth Maul head and a range of vehicles, including the Death Star. Amor said: "Like most children I played with Lego, but my passion was reignited around 12 years ago when I received a Lego Darth Vader Imperial Tie Fighter for Christmas.

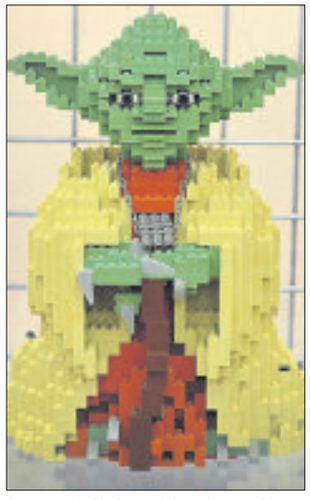
"After that I started to look to see what else was out there and found this whole new world. I probably spend 20 hours a week building stuff.

"I have over a million pieces of Lego now and the collection at Himley probably took around 18 months to build.

"As a massive Star Wars fan it was a real labour of love, and it's been great to see so much positive feedback from it.

"Hopefully the Jedi News visit will open it up to an even bigger audience."

The free exhibition runs until September 30.


A very early Yoda model made out of Lego

Amor Lamine with part of the display

An X Wing attracts visitors

Mental health service for women rated good in all five categories

A MENTAL health service for women has been rated as good across the board by the Care Quality Commission.

Beverley Mews in Wednesbury has been awarded the rating in all five categories including safety, responsiveness, effectiveness, being caring and being well-led. In their report, inspectors said: "We observed high levels of interaction between the staff and residents.

By Charlotte Callear

"We observed staff that were engaging and friendly.

"They had good knowledge of the residents' needs and were able to engage with them on a level that felt supportive. Residents stated that staff at the unit were professional and that they were happy with the quality of care delivery."

The inspectors went on to say: "The environment that had been created at Beverley Mews had been designed to closely represent community living.

"Residents had access to a number of rooms for relaxation and social gathering and were encouraged to personalise their bedrooms with decorations and furnishings."

They also had access to a psychologist who used cognitive behavioural therapy.

Beverley Mews is a step-down service in Wednesbury and is designed specifically for women with mental health issues.

This step-down service helps residents prepare for independent living in the local community as their final residential stage of treatment.

It is managed by Priory Adult Care, a division within the renowned Priory Group, the mental healthcare specialists.

Linda Powell, manager, said: "I am really proud of my team for what we have achieved. It is brilliant that we have got a 'good' rating in all categories.

"Most of all, thanks to our residents who work closely with us and make the most of the support we offer to them."

Try your hand at printing

PEOPLE will have the chance to try their hand at screen printing with a workshop taking place in Wednesbury on Saturday.

Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery is the venue for the workshop, from 2pm to 4pm, led by Karoline Rerrie, a Birmingham-based illustrator.

Karoline's enchanting folk art-inspired prints have been used in books and on greeting cards. The cost is £5 per person, and £3 for Sandwell College students. The over-16s only workshop will allow people to 'have a go' and hopefully inspire them to create some wonderful screen prints and patterns.

They will be shown a mixture of techniques and skills, to get them started and gain the information they need to start their own screen printing crafts at home.

Singer Joe on his way

SINGER Joe Longthorne MBE will be performing his hits at Wednesbury Town Hall tomorrow.

He will be joined by special guest vocalist Helen James along with tributes to Shirley Bassey, Tome Jones, Elvis, and many more at 7pm.

Tickets at £15 and £10 are available at the Town Hall box office and at www.tickettailor.com/events/tmevents/136644.

Youngsters show their style for prom parade

Students from left to right, Jaskirat Singh, Sovin Kaur, Ezri Mangat, Rahima Begum

From left, Jake Short, Alex Preston, Kimani Grant

OVER 80 Darlaston students stunned well-wishers with a dazzling display of glamorous evening dresses and sophisticated style as they arrived at their end of year School Prom.

Held at the Village Hotel in Walsall, the stylish Year 11 party-goers from Grace Academy Darlaston enjoyed a final get together over dinner, and then danced the night away to celebrate the end of their exams.

Callum Nock, Head Boy, said: "It's sad to be leaving, but an amazing night to finish this year with."

Student Ellen Greenlees wrote staff a note saying: "I've been the luckiest student to be taught by you all." Commenting on the Prom evening, Ellen added: "Everyone looks beautiful, awesome night."

Alex Mullen-Jones, Head of Year 11, said: "There has been a great buzz and excitement after all the hard work during the year, and it's great to celebrate with them.

"We fully expect all their efforts to pay off on results day, and we look forward to seeing many of them back with us in Sixth Form in September."

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Shaping up for youth festival at country park

SANDWELL'S annual youth festival comes to Sandwell Valley Country Park on Saturday, July 14.

The SHAPE Youth Festival will include live music, a climbing wall, Zorb football, graffiti art, a UV silent disco, photobooth and a junior funfair.

There will be performances from the finalists of the SHAPE Your Talent 2018 competition, plus other local artists including cultural acts such as Polish dancers and a Bhangra smash-up band. There's human football, wipe out sweeper, a gladiator duel, bungee run, inflatable football dartboard and Sandwell Park Farm will have some of their animals there.

And there'll also be a mini-gym, the youth bus, magic and circus tricks plus lots more. Admission to the festival is free though some activities do have a small charge.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for children's services Councillor Simon Hackett said: "It's going to be a great day out at Sandwell Valley. We want to celebrate the diversity of Sandwell, for young people to enjoy themselves, to meet new people and above all, have fun."

The day kicks off with the Blind Dave Colour Run at 11am.

Tickets for the Colour Run are £12.50 per person or a family package for two adults and two children for £44. For more details and to book a place on the Colour Run go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/SHAPEevents

Tata Steel agrees Thyssenkrupp deal

GERMAN steel production firm Thyssenkrupp has reached an agreement on a European joint venture with Tata Steel. The firms, which both have sites in the Black Country, will combine their European steel businesses in a 50/50 venture. The new firm will be called Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel.

Dressed up for the occasion during the Armed Forces Day event

Richard Cartwright and Bob Coates

Local veterans seen with members of the Marching Band of St Gregory's

Tony Machin from Wolverhampton with a US Jeep hailing back to 1956

RAF Cadets on parade during the event at Himley Hall, with their own tribute to the Armed Forces

Crowds back Armed Forces

THE Black Country came together to pay tribute to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces on Sunday.

The annual Armed Forces Day event saw thousands of regulars, reserves, veterans and their families and supporters gather at a very sunny Himley Hall and Park. in Dudley

The centenary special organised by Dudley Council marked 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force and also the end of the First World War.

Run in association with Black Country Housing Group, the event celebrated the work of servicemen and women past and present.

Entertainment for all the family included vintage fairground rides, Punch and Judy show plus live performances from vintage harmony trio The Bluebird Belles and RAF Cosford Voluntary Band wowed the crowds.

A special medal and badge presentation was held for veterans, who were honoured for their service in the forces. Special guest and Second World War veteran Les Cherrington, aged 99, was also presented with a gift from The Wings Parachute Display Team, who jumped into the park during the event.

Current and historic military vehicles were displayed in the park and people enjoyed history talks in the hall.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor said: "Armed Forces Day is a complete credit to all involved and it was a joy to see so many families enjoying the event.

"I was delighted to be able to meet with some of the servicemen and women who give so much for our country and it was a complete honour to present veterans with their medals and badges as a way of thanks for all they have done."

Black Country Housing Group, one of the area's leading social housing providers, was the event's principal sponsor. Blind Monkey Brewery also supported the event.

South Staffordshire MP and Defence Secretary, Gavin Williamson was in Llandudno, North Wales, on Saturday for this year's national event with the Princess Royal and Prime Minister Theresa May.

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West Brom supporting charity to aid victims

STAFF at the Black Country's largest building society have chosen to raise funds for a Sandwell-based charity that supports victims of abuse, violence and exploitation.

Donations collected by the West Bromwich Building Society over the next 12 months will be given to Black Country Women's Aid to enhance its services for women, men and children throughout the West Midlands.

Founded 30 years ago, Black Country Women's Aid helps more than 8,000 people every year to escape from violence, cope with trauma and rebuild their lives.

It offers refuge and community support for victims of domestic and sexual abuse, provides specialist counselling, works with children and young people who have suffered abuse and assists victims of modern slavery and international human trafficking.

The charity's chief executive Sara Ward said: "Abuse comes in many forms and affects people of all ages and from all walks of life.

"Women are most commonly targeted; in fact one in four women in the UK will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.

"We believe that no-one should have to live in fear of violence and abuse and we work tirelessly to ensure that victims get the best support possible.

"There is huge demand for our services, which is why we are delighted the West Brom has pledged fundraising assistance for the next year."

The West Brom, which has 37 branches across the Black Country, Birmingham, Shropshire and mid-Wales and employs around 740 people invites staff once a year to nominate and select a charity they would like to collectively fundraise for."

Actress: Just call me Julie, not dame

DAME Julie Walters admits she is too embarrassed to use her new title honoured to her by the Queen, comparing it to waving an award in people's faces.

Smethwick's Dame Julie Walters

The actress, originally from Smethwick, was appointed Dame Commander of the British Empire by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in November, which she described as 'a massive pat on the back'.

But when asked if she ever called herself Dame Julie, she said: "No, I'd never do that ever! It's just a nice thing to have. You don't carry Baftas around with you." The 68-year-old added: "I felt very lucky to receive it from the Queen, as she doesn't do many these days. She said, 'I'm glad you're getting this'."

Dame Julie is returning to the big screen next month in Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, a sequel to the 2008 film also starring Meryl Streep and Amanda Seyfried.

No Stade affair at comedy night

COMEDIANS Tom Stade and Chris Stokes are teaming up for a return to the Midlands with an Edinburgh Fringe preview.

They will be performing at the Fat Penguin Comedy club in Moseley on July 25.

Stokes, who went to Great Wyrley High School, is trialling his We Don't Need Roads solo stand-up show ahead of the Fringe.

He will be opening for Canadian comic Stade who used to live in the Black Country and famously has a routine about a meat van in Bilston.

The Fat Penguin Comedy club is a weekly crowd-funded comedy night at the Patrick Kavanagh bar.

Entry is free with a £5 donation recommended.

Life jail sentence for paranoid schizophrenic who drove to station with dead body in car

BY MEGAN ARCHER

A PARANOID schizophrenic who drove to a police station with a dead body in his car, before admitting he had killed his victim, has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Sukhwinder Singh killed his brother-in-law Harish Kumar in August 2017 with one single stab wound before driving his dead body to West Bromwich Police Station. The 41-year-old denied murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter by diminished responsibility.

Last Friday, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Singh suffered from 'delusional beliefs' and believed his wife – who he has since separated from – was having an affair.

He had a 'deteriorating mental state' and heard voices in his head, and had seen a psychiatrist. He was also addicted to heroin and cocaine, and had previously been convicted for murder in his home country of India.

Living in Macdonald Close in Tividale, Singh came to the UK in April 2007 and, due to an admin error, was able to apply for a British citizenship in 2011.

He failed to disclose his previous convictions in the application.

His victim, 38-year-old Mr Kumar – a builder of Rose Hill in Willenhall – was Singh's sister's husband, but it was thought the pair had been friends since the 1990s. His wife was on holiday in Australia with their son at the time of his death.

Mr Kumar's family said in a statement: "Harish was a great, very humble man. We just cannot believe that we have lost him."

Sentencing Singh, Judge Michael Challinor said: "The circumstances surrounding the death of Harish Kumar are far from clear.

"But what is clear is that you stabbed Harish Kumar in the chest with considerable force, which damaged his heart and aorta and led to his death.

"You pose a significant risk to the public. You killed a man and caused great distress among many people.

"To put it plainly you were illegally in this country, addicted to hard drugs, had fled when you should have been imprisoned and then killed for a second time with a knife. You are an extremely dangerous individual and pose significant risk of causing serious harm.

Judge Challinor sentenced Singh to life imprisonment for manslaughter, with a minimum five year term. He is to be detained at Raeside Clinic in Birmingham until necessary, before being transferred to prison.

He will be automatically deported back to India on his release from jail.

Paul's got tiny footballing tributes all figured out

REPORT BY DAVID BANNER

AN ENGLAND super-fan who has spent hours painstakingly recreating the most iconic moments in World Cup history using Subbuteo figures plans to document each England win.

Paul Ridler first started building football scenes using the retro tabletop figures in 2016 in homage to his great grandfather, former England and West Bromwich Albion legend Billy Bassett.

Each detailed miniature pitch takes the lifelong West Brom fan between three and four days to paint, meticulously arrange and set in blocks of perspex.

The 41-year-old design technician has spent hundreds of hours creating exact replicas of famous moments from previous tournaments and the Euros – including the Maradona 'Hand of God' from the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, and Bobby Moore lifting the World Cup in 1966.

Speaking before the Colombia game on Tuesday, father-of-two Paul, from Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, said: "It's all looking quite promising at the moment with Kane on fire. We need to keep our feet on the ground and not get carried away.

Dream

"If England win, doing a model would be the highlight of my England supporting days.

"Obviously I'd rather prefer a hat-trick in the final. Anytime an England player scores a hat-trick is always very special, especially at a World Cup.

"Whenever something momentous happens in any game you immediately think 'I should recreate a model of this'."

Paul says he only makes each scene once, in order to make them as unique as possible.

Paul, who makes the ornaments as a part-time hobby, said: "I had my childhood collection of Subbuteo figures just lying around and I thought it would be interesting to use them to make a model of my great grandfather Billy Bassett.

"When I posted the result on social media once I'd created it, it got a huge reaction.

"It inspired me to start recreate the more significant moments from football past.

"Each person that has one knows that that's the only one out there.

"It's a really painstaking process, there are loads of little processes you need to go through like getting the layers of paint on and the skin colour as well as the fine details.

"I use lots of pictures to make sure it's all accurate and to get the right squad number and type of kit – doing kits from the 70s and 80s are the hardest." And despite his collection depicting some of the most iconic moments in World Cup history, Paul is clear which scene is his favourite.

He said: "Of course as an England fan, my favourite World Cup scene is of Bobby Moore being held up by Sir Geoff Hurst and Ray Wilson whilst holding aloft the Jules Rimet World Cup after England's 1966 win.

Paul's other Baggies creations include one of former Hawthorns favourite Jonas Olsson celebrating his goal against rivals Wolves in a 5-1 win during 2012. He has also made one of his great-grandfather in his England kit.

Bassett won 16 England caps, later becoming director of Albion in 1905 and then chairman in 1908.

Earlier this year Paul created a Subbuteo figure of West Brom legend Cyrille Regis, who died in January at the age of 59.

Subbuteo expert Paul Ridler who was recreated iconic football moments in football history

England winning the World Cup, Subbuteo-style

Paul Gascoigne after scoring in Euro 96

Paul's great-grandfather hg

No police objection to social club extending opening

POLICE have raised no objection to a social club extending its opening hours despite residents' concerns about potential anti-social behaviour. Boldmere Sports and Social Club, in Sutton Coldfield, applied for its brick-built clubhouse, constructed in 2009, to remain open until midnight Monday to Thursday, 1am Fridays and Saturdays and 11pm on Sundays.

It would bring the premises in-line with the operating hours of its older wooden building on the same site at Boldmere Road. But Birmingham City Council's planning committee halted the plans last month in light of more than 30 objections from locals who raised issues about potential disturbance and nuisance. Councillors were concerned West Midlands Police had not been consulted and deferred a decision.

Now the force has responded confirming it will not stand in the way of the application.

The proposal is due to go back to the committee today, Thursday, and council officers have warned that they do not have firm grounds to reject it. A report states: "There is no evidence that the proposal would result in anti-social behaviour that could justify a reason for refusal.

"The premises are an established sports and social club which hold social events running into the evening. The older club house already has a licence to open until the hours being proposed for the new club house. By allowing the new club house to have the same hours it would result in the evening events taking place in this purpose-built modern structure with superior acoustic qualities. As such the proposal has the potential to reduce any noise and disturbance compared to the current situation.

"Officers advise that the recommended ground for refusal is not consistent with planning policy/guidance and therefore unlikely to be defendable at a planning appeal."

The Ticket

@TheTicket_Star

JAZZ IS ALL THAT MATTERS TO CURTIS

INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

The secret is out !!

The Vine in West Bromwich used to be called the Midlands' best-kept secret, but after winning the title of 'National Curry Pub of the Year' for three years and with thousands of visitors every week, the secret's out!

Offering a warm welcome to everybody who visits The Vine, the award-winning pub has visitors from far and wide across the UK – with many visiting for a taste of The Vine's famous chicken tikka alone.

Owned by Suki and Bhanu Patel, the couple have been running the well-loved pub for almost 40 years and are well known by regulars. The couple's children, Bharat and Hema, have also joined them to help The Vine go from strength to strength.

The curry pub has under-gone a great deal of change over the last couple of years, with refurbishment work in the barbecue room and conservatory, followed by a facelift for the bar, front rooms, and toilets to bring a fresh new look throughout.

But the real secret of The Vine's success is the food. From its famous chicken tikka and claypot dishes to an extensive range of curries, this is dining on a different level.

Choose something sizzling hot from the barbecue, or design Your Curry, Your Way – where you can choose your favourite sauce and ingredients and have them served just as you like them with your choice of sides and accompaniments.

With all dishes cooked freshly to order, The Vine can accommodate to your needs. There are also a range of vegetarian dishes available too.

With a superb range of real locally sourced ales, as well as lagers, wines and spirits, and you can see why it's impossible to keep somewhere like this secret.

Sinatra and all that jazz for star Curtis

Back in the day, Curtis Stigers was the man with the flowing locks and the pin-up looks. The singer enjoyed a string of chart successes in the early 1990s, including the international smash hits I Wonder Why and You're All That Matters To Me.

And yet becoming part of the international jet set was something that didn't sit well. He was more interested in playing the music close to his heart – jazz and swing – than he was making a dent in the charts.

And so he began an alternative career. Curtis exited the arenas and stadiums into which he'd briefly been placed and started doing the rounds at jazz clubs and bars. That was 17 years ago and his jazzy versions of pop songs have made him ever-popular in the USA and Europe. These days, his records don't make the chart – and that's exactly how he likes it.

He's back on the road with a show that pays homage to the greatest of them all – Frank Sinatra – and will headline Birmingham's Town Hall on July 13 with a show called Sinatra At The Sands, in which he'll perform with The Ronnie Scott's Big Band.

Curtis will channel the hip, swinging chemistry of Frank Sinatra and the Count Basie Orchestra in celebration of the classic album Sinatra at the Sands. It follows the release last year of his latest album, One More For The Road, with the Danish Radio Big Band.

Not that Stigers will party like Ol' Blue Eyes after the show. "I'm old enough to know that I shouldn't have a drink of whisky to end the night. That's always been a downfall for me. The next day is a very bad day if I do that. If I'm going to have something strong, I'm going to start with it. Once I'm done with it, I'm a big fan of a nice glass of red wine, so I'd switch to that. It'd have to be red wine only because I'm too smart to hurt myself as badly as I did when I was young.

And we wonder why – Curtis Stigers is taking on Sinatra's hits

OUTSPOKEN

"Listen to me, children! Do not mix drinks at the end of the night. It seems like a great idea when they bring out a bottle of nice Scotch whisky but once they do that, you're in trouble."

Curtis is one of rock'n'roll's more cultured performers. A delightful raconteur and outspoken politico, his Twitter feed is one of the more entertaining that there is.

He frequently rails against the 'poison' of USA President Donald Trump and also tackles such commentators as Katie Hopkins in no-punches-pulled discourse.

"He's just a nightmare for everyone. I think in the long-run, even the people who support him will rue the day that they decided to vote for him. He doesn't care about anybody except himself. He's not about the country. He's not about the people he supposedly represents. He's about making money and getting attention. I don't think he's mentally stable either. We could probably talk about him for hours!"

Curtis's new Sinatra project is close to his heart. He is a huge fan of Sinatra at the Sands, which inspired his album with the Danish Radio Big Band.

"I flew over to rehearse with them for a day, drank a couple of Danish beers and I sang a bunch of great material that I have known since I was a kid but hadn't sung as it never occurred to me to sing Sinatra. I've always kind of done my own thing. I had a ball, though. It was a riot.

"A few weeks later someone sent me an email with a link to the recordings for Danish radio, as it had gone out as a broadcast.

"And to be honest, I didn't even listen to it. It took me a couple of weeks to rediscover it. I threw it on when doing some work and I was really surprised by how fresh it sounded and how cool it sounded to hear me singing these songs and arrangements that Sinatra made so famous."

Curtis has led a remarkable life – coming face-to-face with rock excess and meeting his heroes along the way.

"It was wonderful at the time – but you can't spend your life like that. It's very easy to lose track of reality. They were great times and I got to perform in front of huge numbers of people and meet a lot of my heroes like Eric Clapton, Elton John and Prince. But I wouldn't want to be stuck in the back of a tour bus now – these days I like to keep it low key, it's better to connect to people in each of the place I travel to.

> *It's very easy to lose track of reality. They were great times . . .*

"Different things are important to me now I guess. I've seen plenty of people in my industry lose sight of what's real and what's not. I'd like to think that I have never been like that, I've always tried to keep a grip on what's important."

Andy Richardson

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Young Vic's The Jumper Factory

Emphasis on youth at Rep's theatre festival

More than 200 young people from across Europe will unite in Birmingham this summer for a celebration of youth theatre.

Over five days from July 30 to August 3, a total of 14 youth theatre companies will perform as part of For / With / By: Festival of European Youth Theatre at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

The aim of the festival is to raise awareness of youth theatre work, both in the UK and Europe, and also to celebrate incredible theatre made by young people aged 14 to 25.

The programme includes a broad range of plays from the classic, Antigone, to the topical Windrush-inspired, The Place For Me, with companies from across the UK and also Ireland, Poland and Spain.

Steve Ball, associate director for learning and participation at Birmingham Rep, said: "For / With / By is a celebration of the thousands of young people who take part in youth theatre groups every week across the UK and Europe. Here at The Rep we believe theatre and the chance to participate in high-quality drama activities should be open to every young person.

"Performing, learning and participating in theatre can have life-changing experiences and I think that during the festival you'll not only see some incredible theatre making, you'll also see young people having a real drive and passion for something they have chosen to be part of."

For further information about the shows see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk website.

Be moonstruck by the Lunar line-up

THE Lunar Festival near Birmingham offers an intimate alternative to the summer's mega music fests.

The capacity is 5,000 for the Lunar Festival, named after a group of Birmingham-based 18th century industrialists, philosophers and intellectuals, which is being held at a rural site near the Warwickshire village of Tanworth-In-Arden, after taking a year off in 2017.

Committed to staying small whilst thinking big, the 2018 edition of Lunar Festival is held over the weekend of July 27 to 29. The major music acts will be in action from Friday to Sunday, following 'early settlers' day on Thursday.

Top of the bill on Friday is Amadou & Mariam, a Grammy-nomiated duo from Mali, and the line up also includes the Go! Team, folk group The Unthanks with the songs of Molly Drake, a DJ set from Baement Jaxx and funky Welsh band Boy Azooga, plus others.

Goldfrapp, fronted by Alison Goldfrapp, pictured, headline on Saturday, plus electronic outfit Crazy P, Hookworms and 'Madchester' favourites A Guy Called Gerald, and more. Another eclectic line-up on Sunday is topped by new wave veterans The Stranglers, with support from Malian band Songhoy Blues, singer-songwriter Jane Weaver, and DJ Mark Radcliffe's Galleon Blast.

"Lunar is 100 per cent dedicated to celebrating the wonderful community of music and art lovers that have supported the festival to date, and we look forward to welcoming friends old and new to this year's edition," said the festival's John Fell.

There is a range of prices with camping and without, and special deals for students and NHS workers. For more information see www.lunarfestival.co.uk website.

Fenn-tastic event for Twin Peaks fans

Sherilyn Fenn, Audrey Horne in cult 1990s TV series Twin Peaks and its sequel Twin Peaks: The Return, is the first special guest announced for MCM Birmingham Comic Con at the NEC on November 24 and 25. While Fenn has an array of TV and film credits to her name, from Gilmore Girls to the controversial Boxing Helena, the Detroit-born actor is best known as Audrey in David Lynch and Mark Frost's surreal detective drama Twin Peaks. See www.mcmcomiccon.com/birmingham/2018

Hip-hop and pop at Solihull Summer Fest

This year's Solihull Summer Fest is set to be the best yet with a line-up that includes pop legendss Busted, Sister Sledge, Blue and 10cc – plus latest X-factor winners, Rak-Su. Now in its third year, thousands at Tudor Grange Park over the August Bank Holiday weekend.The Saturday (August 25) line-up includes disco sensations Sister Sledge, 70s favourites 10cc and 'All Rise' boy band Blue. Also on the bill are X Factor hip-hop sensations Rak-Su, singer and Britain's Got Talent judge Alesha Dixon and Roland Gift from the Fine Young Cannibals. Sunday (August 26) includes the only confirmed gig of 2018 for Busted, plus 'America' hitmakers Razorlight, the Lightning Seeds, The Beat featuring Ranking Roger and The Dualers. Plus special guest rappers the Sugar Hill Gang. Visit www.solihullsummerfest.co.uk

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

TRADITIONAL REAL ALE PUB

Manager Mandy always ensure a warm welcome to customers old and new at the Waggon & Horses in Oldbury.

Waggon & Horses also showcase all the major sporting events from Football to Boxing all featured on Sky Sports, BT Sports and Box Nation. For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching' there is the availability of the Pool Table.

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, Plus many more!.

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers get 10p back on their card for every pound spend.

The pub also has regular live entertainment over weekends and also offers a FREE Juke box on a Friday night.

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Departing Sunday 28 Oct
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Price Includes...
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SATURDAY'S TV JULY 7

CHOICE

Jo Whiley

RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2018 (BBC2, 9.30pm)

On the final day at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, Carol Klein will be revealing what to plant this weekend for instant results, Arit Anderson has some Hampton-inspired ideas for outside spaces, and Adam Frost explores how to create privacy in a garden. Plus, Toby Buckland meets the winner of Florist of the Year and Nick Bailey looks in detail at a cut-flower favourite, the lily. Introduced by Joe Swift and Jo Whiley.

BBC1

In the event of live football not being shown, the following schedule is subject to change.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of day six at the All England Club. **2.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Gary Lineker presents coverage of the third quarter-final (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker presents further live coverage of day six.

6.10 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Spain or Russia v Croatia or Denmark (Kick-off 7.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the fourth quarter-final, which takes place at Fisht Stadium in Sochi, as the semi-final line-up is completed. The teams still left in the competition at this stage know they have a very strong chance of lifting the famous trophy, and the pressure will be on both countries to perform well here. If the expected results had occurred in the group stages and during last week's last-16 encounters, this match may well have been a mouthwatering clash between Spain and Argentina, but Jorge Sampaoli's side just scraped through in second place from their group, and met France in the second round a week ago. Fernando Hierro – who travelled to four World Cups as a defender for Spain – took over as manager just days before the start of the tournament following Julen Lopetegui's sacking, and guided his side to a memorable 3-3 draw with Portugal, a 1-0 victory over Iran and a 2-2 draw with Morocco in their group games. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce and Danny Murphy.

9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R)

9.45 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.05 Film: Avengers: Age of Ultron. (2015) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

12.15 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Marrying Mum and Dad. **7.10** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.40** The Dengineers. (R) **8.10** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.40** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.10** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **10.30** Athletics: Diamond League Lausanne Highlights. **11.30** Wimbledon 2018.

8.30 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at SW19, where the line-up for the last 16 was set to be decided. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic progressing to the fourth round with respective straight-set victories over Mischa Zverev and Ernests Gulbis, while Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was dumped out of the tournament on Court Two against American Sam Querrey.

9.30 RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2018. Carol Klein reveals what to plant for instant results, Arit Anderson has ideas for outside spaces, and Adam Frost explores how to create privacy in a garden. Last in the series.

10.00 Joanna & Jennifer: Absolutely Champers. In Absolutely Fabulous, Patsy and Edina were rarely seen without a glass of champagne in their hands. And it turns out their real-life counterparts, comedy collaborators and great friends Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders, also like nothing more than getting together to share a glass of something chilled and bubbly. Now the pair head across the channel to explore the Champagne region of France and find out how the tipple is made. Along the way, they also quiz each other about their lives, revealing previously unheard stories and anecdotes. (R)

11.00 Absolutely Fabulous. A new boyfriend boasting a selection of lost Beatles recordings makes Eddie think she has hit the big time. (R)

11.30 Film: Behind the Candelabra. (2013)

1.20 Film: Populaire. (2012) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

In the event of live football not being shown, the following schedule is subject to change.

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's American Adventure. **9.55** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.55** ITV News. **12.00** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's races from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **2.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Coverage of the third quarter-final (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 FIFA World Cup 2018. Spain or Russia v Croatia or Denmark (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the fourth quarter-final, which takes place at Fisht Stadium in Sochi, as the semi-final line-up is completed. The teams still left in the competition at this stage know they have a very strong chance of lifting the famous trophy, and the pressure will be on both countries to perform well here. If the expected results had occurred in the group stages and during last week's last-16 encounters, this match may well have been a mouthwatering clash between Spain and Argentina, but Jorge Sampaoli's side just scraped through in second place from their group, and met France in the second round a week ago. Fernando Hierro – who travelled to four World Cups as a defender for Spain – took over as manager just days before the start of the tournament following Julen Lopetegui's sacking, and guided his side to a memorable 3-3 draw with Portugal, a 1-0 victory over Iran and a 2-2 draw with Morocco in their group games.

9.15 Bear's Mission with Rob Brydon. Adventurer Bear Grylls teaches the comedian some alternative survival skills. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: The Bourne Identity. (2002) Thriller, starring Matt Damon.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Swansea Half Marathon. **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. The 10th round of the season continues. **12.25** F1 Meets Toto Wolff. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Silverstone (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys: India. The first of two programmes in which Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India by canal boat. The trip begins in Kerala, a region of palm-fringed lakes, rivers and British-built canals which has had a thriving spice trade for thousands of years. They explore a boat built by a local ruler and make offerings at a temple, while Pru learns a traditional dance. (R)

8.00 Film: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. (2015) With the original Best Exotic Marigold Hotel a roaring success, owner Sonny decides the time is right to expand his business empire. But to do so, he and the rest of the residents must pull out all the stops to impress a potential investor's inspector – a task that proves to be easier said than done. Comedy drama sequel, with Dev Patel, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and Richard Gere.

10.25 Film: The World's End. (2013) Five childhood friends reunite for a pub crawl in their home town, only to stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

12.30 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a dog-friendly hotel in urgent need of help. (R) **1.20** The Big Narstie Show. The grime MC presents an alternative entertainment show. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. A special flashback episode focusing on James, looking back at moments in his life including his 16th birthday and landing his first role at law firm, Forbes Carney. (R) **4.15** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three rival north London sellers try to clinch a sale from buyer Kelly. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **1.45** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **2.45** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.45** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.45** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.45** 5 News Weekend. **5.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

6.45 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The enforcement agents chase down a builder owing nearly £3,500 to a customer and head to south London to recover almost £10,000 from a debtor who acted as guarantor for a friend. (R)

7.40 Britain's Greatest Magician: Paul Daniels. Documentary revisiting the highlights of Paul Daniels' decades-long career as a TV magician, which saw him bring magic to the masses via grand set-piece performances such as making an elephant vanish, and shocking stunts, including his infamous iron maiden trick. The programme also charts the beginnings of Paul's interest in illusions, learning rudimentary tricks from a book during his childhood in Middlesbrough. Includes interviews with Paul's Magic Circle contemporary Stephen Mulhern, illusionists David Copperfield and Penn and Teller, and the magician's own widow and former on-stage companion Debbie McGee. (R)

9.00 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. TV illusionists have been sawing ladies in half, catching bullets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing set-pieces of Penn & Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comedy great Tommy Cooper. Paul Daniels and Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium. (R)

11.50 Cricket on 5.

12.45 SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Earth's Greatest Spectacles **8.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **9.00** Hidden **10.00** Rik Mayall: Lord of Misrule **11.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.00** Smashing Hits! The 80's Pop Map of Britain & Ireland **2.00** Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark **3.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.05** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **12.35** Catchphrase **1.20 Film:** Twister (1996) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25 Film:** Twister (1996) **3.35 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** CelebAbility **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

4.55 Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **1.50** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

3.15 Pawn Stars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** World Series of Darts Live: Las Vegas. Coverage of day two of the US Darts Masters from the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. **12.00 Film:** Nacho Libre (2006) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Nacho Libre (2006) **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.55 Film: Postman Pat: The Movie (2014) **1.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** Young Sheldon **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Ted (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.10** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Rude Tube **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **1.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.45** Vice Versa (1988) **4.40** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014) **6.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **9.00** True Lies (1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.45** The Anomaly (2014) **1.40** Mercury Rising (1998) **3.55** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV JULY 8

CHOICE

Rafael Nadal

Strokes of Genius: Federer v Nadal
(BBC2, 6.20pm)
A look back at the 2008 Wimbledon men's singles final, which saw Rafael Nadal triumph over Roger Federer in an epic five-set encounter that lasted for four hours and 48 minutes. The contest was also halted twice for rain delays, meaning the event stretched for over seven hours before eventually reaching its conclusion not long before nightfall.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Barry Davies: The Man, The Voice, The Legend. (R) **2.00** Just Call Me Martina. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. **3.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Attenborough and the Giant Elephant. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Sean Fletcher explore the ground of Hampton Court Palace, home to the last remaining working shire horses in London, which provide a natural alternative to modern machinery. Plus, a look at the finished design for the Countryfile Wildlife Garden to appear at the Hampton Court Flower Show, and Anita Rani and Adam Henson meet two more candidates for the Young Presenter contest.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Cardiff Castle, where items brought in to be valued include a simple pottery jug given as a love token, an early Hockney print found in a junk shop, and a draft score for Elgar's Enigma Variations signed by the composer.

9.00 Poldark. Grain prices rise, leaving the poor struggling to support their families. Ross makes a desperate gamble to help them, which draws the attention of the prime minister. However, Falmouth persuades him to compromise his principles to achieve his goals. Demelza continues her plot to bring Drake and Rosina together, but he is far more interested in a future with Morwenna. Caroline continues to repress her grief, and Arthur is driven into a murderous rage when he learns the truth about Rowella's affair.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Celebrities on the NHS Frontline. To mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, four well-known faces get first-hand experience at King's College Hospital, London. (R)

11.30 Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia: Gay and Under Attack. (R)

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.20** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.05** Natural World: Heligan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.15** Rick Stein's German Bite. (R) **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.00** Mountain Lions – Big Cats in High Places: Natural World. (R) **4.00** Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. (R)

6.20 Strokes of Genius: Federer v Nadal. A look back at the 2008 Wimbledon men's singles final, which saw Rafael Nadal triumph over Roger Federer in an epic five-set encounter that lasted for four hours and 48 minutes.

8.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. The traveller's second leg of his journey across Russia takes him from south-east Siberia to the far south west and the majestic Caucasus Mountains. Along the way he stops off at the oldest lake on earth, witnesses a commemoration of the Second World War in the city of Irkutsk and visits a cafe where patriotic staff and punters perform a daily rendition of the national anthem. He also finds out how the collapse of communism has seen millions of disenchanted Russians join new sects and religions, with one community worshipping a man claiming to be the reincarnation of Christ. (R)

9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. The comedian visits Ethiopia, experiencing local traditional medicine and jazz music, as well as learning more about the country's oppressive political regime.

10.00 Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate. Violence erupts in Charlottesville and President Trump fails to denounce white supremacists, before further stirring division by blaming the media for the nation's problems.

10.55 Film: The Box. (2009) A couple receive a box that will make them rich at the press of a button – but if they do so, someone will die. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden.

12.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)
1.45 Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25 Film:** Problem Child. (1990) **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.55** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.55** ITV News; Weather. **2.00** Catchphrase. (R) **2.45** Tenable. (R) **3.45** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **4.45 Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as one-time Coronation Street actor Jimi Mistry (Khalid Nazir), former Emmerdale star Gemma Atkinson (Carly Hope), Loose Women's Nadia Sawalha and veteran actor James Cosmo pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser, in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds for the charity of their choice. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

8.00 Vera. The detective is drawn into Newcastle's underworld to discover the identity of a murder victim found dead in the river, with no clue as to who he is apart from a distinctive drugs wrapper. She discovers the dead man had ties to some very dangerous people, many of whom may have wanted him dead, while a witness's testimony links the case to a remote farm where a murder took place 13 years previously. The connection brings Kenny's past back to haunt him, as he was responsible for seeing the perpetrator convicted. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Tommy Cooper Forever. (R)

11.20 The Big Fish Off. Former athletics stars Linford Christie and Katharine Merry join team captains Ali Hamidi and Dean Macey. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.30** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Build-Up. Previewing the 10th round of the season. **1.40** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 10th round of the season (Start-time 2.00pm). **4.30** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Reaction. **5.35** Bang on Budget.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Great British Germ Hunt. Kate Quilton and a team explore the invisible world of bacteria, as they conduct a series of unique experiments to find out why these germs are crucial for our health. The team head to a music festival to see if a weekend of partying improves the bacterial diversity of a group of volunteers, and two ordinary British homes are put under the microscope to reveal the germs we live with.

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the final of the patisserie competition, with the last three remaining teams of bakers pulling out all the stops to impress judges Benoit Blin and Cherish Finden and be crowned as the first champion of the professional series. The bakers face a marathon nine-hour challenge, during which they must create a lavish banquet display large enough to serve 80 people. Their creation has to combine four different types of dessert and a towering showpiece combining chocolate and sugar work. Last in the series.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. A sick baby tests Offred and Serena Joy. Meanwhile, Janine finally faces Naomi. Dystopian drama based on Margaret Atwood's novel about a future American theocracy.

10.10 World's Tiniest Masterpieces. Profile of sculptor Willard Wigan, whose miniscule work can only be glimpsed through a microscope, as he creates a sculpture small enough to fit inside a human cell.

11.05 Film: The Eagle. (2011) Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.

1.20 The Last Leg. (R) **2.15** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **3.15** Gillette World Sport. **3.40** My Kitchen Rules. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **6.55** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.45** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **1.55** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **2.55 Film:** Dirty Dancing. (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. **5.00 Film:** Maid in Manhattan. (2002) Romantic comedy, with Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Action from the final T20 of the three-match series, which took place at The Brightside Ground in Bristol. Prior to the commencement of this series, England had an excellent record against India in this format of the game when playing on home soil, winning all three of the matches to have taken place.

8.00 Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring face plants and badly behaved fish.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: We're the Millers. (2013) A drug dealer is hired to pick up a shipment of marijuana in Mexico and bring it back over the border. To make himself look less suspicious, he recruits a stripper and two teenagers to pose as a perfect all-American family on holiday, only to end up getting on the wrong side of a drug cartel. Comedy, with Jason Sudeikis, Jennifer Aniston and Emma Roberts.

11.10 Film: Hot Tub Time Machine 2. (2015) A group of friends travels into the future to solve a mystery after one of them gets shot by a mysterious stranger. Comedy, starring Rob Corddry and Craig Robinson.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Vienna Summer Night Concert 2018 **8.15** Legends of the Deep: Giant Squid **9.00** Horizon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Hunting the Nazi Gold Train **11.30** The Art of Scandinavia **12.30** The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers **1.30** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **2.30** Horizon **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.50 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Talent **12.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.20** Take Me Out **2.35 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **4.25 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **6.45 Film:** Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** CelebAbility **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
7.00 Victoria **9.00** Unforgotten **11.05** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool 1 **3.15** Road to Avonlea **4.55** Murder, She Wrote **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage two of the most prestigious race on the calendar. **5.00** Snooker v Darts **5.10** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Pawn Stars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** Rush Hour 2 (2001) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Rush Hour 2 (2001) **9.55 Film:** The Glimmer Man (1996) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00 Film:** The Glimmer Man (1996) **11.50** Minder **2.05** The Motorbike Show **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **6.30 Film:** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.05** Gogglebox Australia **2.55** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **2.30** The Three Stooges (2012) **4.20** The Train (1964) **7.00** Taxi (2004) **9.00** Faster (2010) **10.55** The Purge (2013) **12.35** Piranha 3DD (2012) **2.10** Phase IV (1973) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Killer Date, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An attractive woman agrees to go on the date arranged online by her sister. The app she is supplied with uses GPS technology and when she starts to receive disturbing messages via the medium, every man in her life becomes a suspect. Thriller, starring Anna Hutchinson. (2016)

TUESDAY
Rocky V, ITV, 10.50pm
The heavyweight champion is forced into retirement due to brain damage inflicted in the ring, and finds his fortune has been lost on the stock market by his accountant. Returning to his working-class roots, he trains an up-and-coming fighter, only to see his protege turn against him. Drama sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and real-life boxer Tommy Morrison. (1990)

WEDNESDAY
Sex, Lies And Deception, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. Samantha and Paul's marriage is put under strain when a car accident involving their daughter Jane sees her admitted to hospital. Drama, starring Jessalyn Gilsig. (2018)

The Last Boy Scout, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Clash of the Titans, Channel 5, 9pm
The son of the Greek god Zeus is raised by humans and grows up to reject his immortal heritage in anger at the gods' cruel treatment of humans. He sets out on a quest to find a means to kill the evil lord of the underworld in revenge for his father's death, facing all manner of strange creatures. Mythological adventure, with Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson, Ralph Fiennes and Gemma Arterton. (2010)

FRIDAY
The Last Boy Scout, ITV, 10.45pm
A private eye half-heartedly takes a job as bodyguard to a nightclub dancer. A shocking attack, however, forces him to take his duties more seriously, and before long he uncovers evidence of murder and corruption - all linked to the world of American football. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Damon Wayans, Chelsea Field and Halle Berry. (1991)

New mystery series hopes to be a novel success

Can an eight-part TV version of Joan Lindsay's classic novel outshine the much-admired film version?

Those who have seen director Peter Weir's haunting movie would probably answer in the negative, but in recent years, the small screen has come to rival its bigger cousin for quality, so we may be onto a winner.

In recent times, the likes of Big Little Lies, The Handmaid's Tale, Top of the Lake and Sky's latest series, Sharp Objects, have gone some way to boost the number of leading roles for women, and Picnic at Hanging Rock certainly lends a hand too – it's dominated by strong females.

When the book was published back in 1967, it was hugely acclaimed and quickly became known as one of the greatest entries in Australian literature, but its origins have puzzled readers ever since.

Some are utterly convinced it's based on a true story, while Lindsay herself did little to persuade people one way or the other. However, her housekeeper later claimed her employer had dreamt the basic idea.

A 2017 article from the Australian magazine The Age stated, "The dream had centred on a summer picnic at a place called Hanging Rock, which Joan knew well from her childhood holidays.

"Joan told Rae (her housekeeper) that the dream had felt so real that when she awoke at 7.30am, she could still feel the hot summer breeze blowing through the gum trees and she could still hear the peals of laughter and conversation of the people she'd imagined, and their gaiety and lightness of spirit."

All this mystery merely adds to the tale's appeal.

The film starred Rachel Roberts, while Vivean Gray – instantly recognisable to Neighbours fans for her subsequent role as battleaxe Mrs Mangel – had a small role, as did Oscar-nominated actress Jacki Weaver.

This time around it's Game of Thrones and The Hunger Games star Natalie Dormer who takes the lead role of widowed headmistress Hester Appleyard, who arrives in Australia as the tale begins.

"I'm excited that the BBC Two is bringing this magical reimagining of an Australian classic to the UK audience," says Dormer. "It's a collaboration of which I'm very proud to be a part."

Sue Deeks, the BBC's head of programme acquisition, adds: "This stylistically bold and atmospheric take on Picnic At Hanging Rock - led by one of Britain's most exciting actors, Natalie Dormer - will be irresistible both to fans of the classic novel and to those coming to this mysterious story for the first time."

Ms Appleyard's reasons for moving to the other side of the world are shrouded in mystery, but in just six years, she manages to turn her self-named college into a leading educational establishment attended by bright girls from well-to-do families.

It's situated in an isolated mansion in the bush, close to the local beauty spot of Hanging Rock.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Picnic at Hanging Rock, Wednesday, BBC2, 9.05pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Olivia Colman finds some surprises in her ancestral history, and her belief that most of those in her family tree emanate from Norfolk turns out to be far from the truth. Olivia is astonished to discover that she needs to travel to India to find out more about her great-great-great grandmother Harriot, who was an orphan in 1811 on a ship bound for England from Calcutta. Harriot's father was an an Englishman, but the identity of her mother, who gave birth to her in a remote Indian village, is a mystery Olivia delights in solving.

TUESDAY
Horizon: How to Build a Time Machine
BBC2, 9pm
Time travel is not forbidden by the laws of nature - but to build a time machine, experts need to understand more about those laws and how to subvert them. Cameras follow scientists, including Professors Ron Mallet and Tamara Davies, who are working on the cutting edge of discovery - men and women who may discover how to build wormholes, manipulate entangled photons or build fully functioning time crystals. In short, enable an engineer of the future to build a machine that allows people to travel back and forward in time.

999: What's Your Emergency?
Channel 4, 9pm
Documentary following the emergency services in Wiltshire, continuing with crimes relating to the rising use of cannabis. PC Joe Tompkinson is cut up at a roundabout and when he stops the car responsible, all he can smell is the drug. PC Adam Burson visits a family whose members have had a brick thrown through their front window - a dealer's retaliation - and officers are called by a mother after she is assaulted by her son, who is suspected to be suffering from cannabis psychosis.

WEDNESDAY
Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
Channel 5, 9pm
This time, the presenter visits Mount Stewart on the shores of Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland, which was home to the Stewart family for more than 250 years. They were given the title of Marquess of Londonderry and it was the Marchioness, Lady Edith, who was largely responsible for transforming the house. Alan learns about Edith's eclectic taste as he looks around her private bedroom suite, and meets her granddaughter, Lady Rose. Elsewhere, Nina travels to the Peroni Archive in Belfast to discover how Lady Edith was active in the Suffragist movement.

Who Do You Think You Are?, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Trump & Britain: Love or Loathing? Tonight
ITV, 7.30pm
Donald Trump is about to make his first official visit to the UK as President, and it's been predicted he'll be greeted by thousands of protestors – there's even been reports that a specially designed orange inflatable will be flown over London to mark the occasion. But will his reception really be as hostile as some sections of the media are predicting? Tonight looks at what we can expect from the US leader's visit, and hears from a varied group of public figures, including Lord Sugar, Nigel Farage, Germaine Greer and Alex Salmond, to find out what they think about the trip. Martin Geissler will also ask what the visit says about the state of the so-called ëspecial relationship' and what it will mean for Britain's future dealings with the controversial President.

FRIDAY
First Night of the Proms
BBC2, 8.30pm
New series. At London's Royal Albert Hall, the new season launches with a feast for the eyes and ears in the world premiere of Five Telegrams, with music by Anna Meredith and stunning digital projections by 59 Productions marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. The all-British programme also features Vaughan Williams' pre-war choral masterpiece Toward the Unknown Region, along with Holst's evergreen Proms favourite The Planets - the first piece Mars, Bringer of War, famously anticipates the onset of mechanistic warfare. The BBC Symphony Orchestra, under conductor Sakari Oramo, is joined by the combined forces of the BBC Symphony Chorus, the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and the BBC Proms Youth Ensemble. Presented by Katie Derham.

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France – and real home from home

SPACIOUS, calm, comforting, a real home-from-home – what more could you ask for in a holiday rental? That's exactly what I discovered at a recently-restored farmhouse in the tiny village of Glatigny in Normandy.

Owners Sam and Francesca Acford have created the perfect escape from our usually frantic lives in a quiet spot close to the most fantastic expanses of beach (often deserted) and minutes away from two charming towns offering a range of bars and restaurants and a wealth of other attractions a little further afield.

They have created a wonderful space from what was basically a shell. There's a large open-plan kitchen, dining room and lounge complete with a huge ornate wood burner (actually made in Ironbridge in Shropshire!).

The stunning beach close to the farmhouse

Open the front door and you enter this living area

VIEW

On the first floor from the landing there is a breathtaking view straight up to the roof timbers neatly framing a traditional French chandelier. This oversized landing has another lounge area, a desk for working on if you really can't leave the office behind, and an extensive library. Off a corridor there are two beautiful bedrooms with original antique furnishings and an imposing, but gorgeous, bathroom with a roll-top bath.

Up a pullout set of stairs and onto the top floor, a mezzanine level which provides another lounge including a third bedroom – a perfect hideway spot and ideal for children! If you need more beds the red Chesterfield sofa and the sofa on the landing are both purpose build 'sofa-beds'.There are also spare mattresses available. But for me, it's perfect for one or two families with a couple of children each.

The kitchen has just about everything you could want and there are two outside courtyards – the front south-facing courtyard is a delight with seating and a large pizza oven/barbecue and a smaller rear courtyard which catches the morning sun. There are also extensive gardens just across the road.

Glatigny is on the western side of the Cotentin peninsula, an area much favoured for summer holidays by Parisians, especially Barnville-Carteret

It is set between the two small towns of La Haye du Puit and Portbail. Both offer a wide range range of shops as well as eateries and cafés along with very good weekly markets. We ate very well in both towns and especially well in Le Hetier. Their menu du jour at lunchtime is great value for money (three courses for around £10) and so tasty. It's where locals eat, and that says a lot.

Both Portbail and Barnville/Carteret offer great equestrian stables for horse riding and the rides along the beach aren't to be missed. Club Hippique 'A Cheval', has a great range of horses and ponies for all sizes and abilities but they also do rides along the beach. That was one experience ticked off my bucket list.

From around June to early September, on most weekends, many towns and villages nearby hold festivals and fêtes with great outdoor music and food. Most towns also have what is called a Brocante, which essentially is a furniture market, but these really are worth a visit as it is very rare such quantities of antiques are under a single roof for such low prices.

Mont St Michel is not too far away, it is a breathtaking place and worth a visit. The Bayeux Tapestry is also close by and is an interesting day out.

A wonderful property in a charming area.

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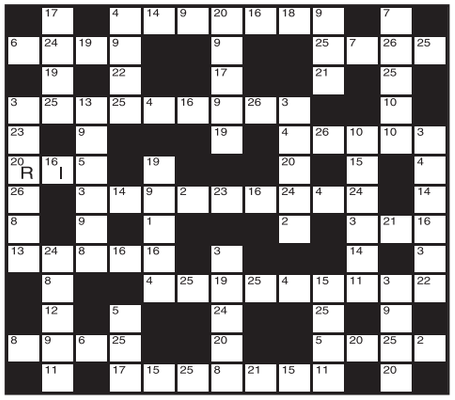
BRAIN GYM

No.487

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



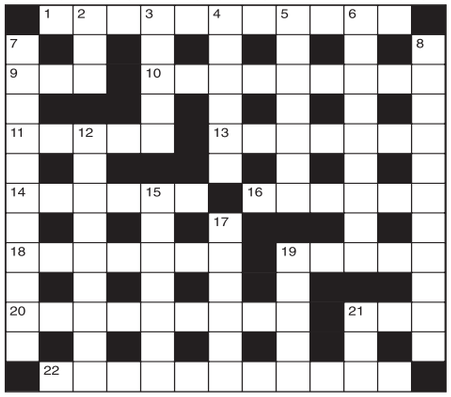
1	14
2	15
3	16 I
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20 R
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	R	P	K	S	N	A	O	I	V	D	T	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	B	H	M	F	G	Z	X	Q	W	U	L	E

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Feeling of optimism engendered by fine liquor? (4,7)
9 & 2Dn. Dine away from home and consume all the food? (3,3)
10. Tall men to make a distribution (9)
11. Put the squeeze on newspapers (5)
13. Having no faith in merit of icy clan (7)
14. Irritate by doing some embroidery? (6)
16. A tense situation in a parliament (6)
18. No let-up for rich in revolution (7)
19. Turner of metal at heavy engineering plant (5)
20. Eastern country where 100 produce eggs for making pottery (5,4)
21. Let the cat out in 22, for example (3)
22. Ignore Della for top part (7,4)

Down

2. See 9 Across
3. Has pull when the scores are level (5)
4. Article in position in royal residence (6)
5. Reunite the train (7)
6. Cutting of furrow by worker (9)
7. Maintain contact without letting the ball come into play (4,2,5)
8. Attending the whole programme in any case (2,3,6)
12. Judicially kill about four in managerial capacity (9)
15. Pull slippery customer up on sheltered side (7)
17. Lets on it's not honestly gained (6)
19. Stratum suitable for egg producer (5)
21. Break the law with this instrument (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Homeliness (11)
9. Also (3)
10. Unfeeling (9)
11. Become void (5)
13. Chiefs (7)
14. Stew (6)
16. Beast (6)
18. Ancestry (7)
19. Less (5)
20. Cheat (9)
21. Everybody (3)
22. Solemnisation (11)

Down

2. Strange (3)
3. The best (5)
4. Struggle (6)
5. Include (7)
6. Dealer (9)
7. Unreliability (11)
8. Stupidly (11)
12. Mournful (9)
15. Fetter (7)
17. Improved (6)
19. Deserve (5)
21. Fuss (3)

Sudoku

		3				9		
	4			1			5	
	2	1		5	7	4		
4				3				8
		5	6		8		4	
3			2	4				9
		4	8	6		2	1	
	5			9				4
		8				7	9	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	7	2	9	3	8	6	5	4
5	9	4	2	6	7	3	1	8
8	3	6	1	4	5	7	2	9
7	4	1	5	9	2	8	6	3
3	6	9	4	8	1	2	7	5
2	8	5	6	7	3	9	4	1
6	1	8	3	2	4	5	9	7
9	5	7	8	1	6	4	3	2
4	2	3	7	5	9	1	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Beau; 3 Compacts; 9 Salamis; 10 Arena; 11 Battle of wits; 13 Lately; 15 Etches; 17 Petty officer; 20 Litre; 21 Perturb; 22 Pleasure; 23 Stud. Down: 1 Baseball; 2 Allot; 4 On show; 5 Play with fire; 6 Cheetah; 7 Seat; 8 Small letters; 12 Ascribed; 14 Theatre; 16 Copper; 18 Court; 19 Slip.
QUICK - Across: 1 Itch; 3 Scribble; 9 Suppose; 10 Tulle; 11 Cheese-paring; 13 Recoil; 15 Cinema; 17 Unsuccessful; 20 Onion; 21 Emotion; 22 Pressing; 23 Once. Down: 1 Insecure; 2 Copse; 4 Creepy; 5 Intermission; 6 Balance; 7 Eden; 8 Constituents; 12 Parlance; 14 Confide; 16 Screen; 18 Feign; 19 Pomp.

Quiz

1. What is the highest mountain on the continent of Europe?
2. With which genre is author Michael Moorcock associated?
3. Which order of chivalry did Princess Anne receive in 1994?
4. Which alcoholic drink is used in making lobster Newburg?
5. Which element has the Latin name plumbum?
6. Who became a Dame and received a Tony award within 48 hours in 1994?
7. What was the first name of baby care writer Dr Spock?
8. Which French tennis player banned her father from attending Wimbledon?
9. In which ocean are the Maldives?
10. Which organisation's agents were nicknamed G-Men?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Japan; 2 Bobby Charlton; 3 Insects; 4 Santa Fe; 5 Hockey; 6 Harvard University; 7 Italy; 8 A pixel; 9 Prunus; 10 Hundred Years' War.

Niner: PROCLAIMS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

768895 gives a dance,
163163 gives a second dance,
423395 gives a poem.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Omega

Chicago is officially back home in London's West End and is about to welcome a new star to the Phoenix Theatre: yes, it's true - Martin Kemp, from pop legends Spandau Ballet and BBC's Eastenders, will join the cast as Billy Flynn from Monday 2nd July for a strictly limited season.

Winner of six Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards and a Grammy, the sexiest, sassiest, most sophisticated Broadway musical in history is celebrating 21 years of standing ovations in style.

The dazzling tale of jazz slayer Roxie Hart, her cell-block rival Velma Kelly and the smooth-talking lawyer Billy Flynn has thrilled audiences across the world since 1996.

With the original Broadway choreography by Ann Reinking in the style of Bob Fosse and a sizzling score featuring the classic songs *"Razzle Dazzle"*, *"Cell Block Tango"* and *"All That Jazz"*, Chicago is so good it should be illegal.

Chicago is playing at the Phoenix Theatre until 5th January 2019.

Don't miss out, book now. It'd be a crime to miss it...

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ABTA

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Well-maintained extended home in a quiet location

An extended, superbly maintained, modernised and improved property, 5 Sunnybank Road, Oldbury, is set in a quiet location, set back from the roadside.

Coming with a large, established private, south-facing garden, it is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £299,950.

This home has built-in appliances in the dining kitchen, wood flooring throughout the ground floor (except the kitchen), and has good sized family accommodation. With double glazing and gas central heating, outside it also has block paved driveway parking for two/three vehicles. It briefly has a porch, reception hall, cloakroom/WC, a dining kitchen, lounge/dining room, conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

In more detail the porch has tiled flooring and the reception hall has wooden flooring and under-stairs storage. The cloakroom/WC has a white suite. The lounge/dining room has a bay window, ornate fireplace with marble hearth and inset and "Living Flame" gas fire, and double doors opening onto the reception hall and double glazed doors to conservatory.

The dining kitchen has white units with granite working surfaces providing an L-shaped worktop, corner gallery shelves, four tier drawers, a built-in double oven, a four-plate gas hob and extractor canopy above. There is also a built-in dishwasher, "Schock" 1.5 bowl sink with mixer tap, built-in fridge freezer and a washing machine and larder cupboard housing "Worcester" combination boiler.

A staircase leads from the reception hall to a first floor landing with a pull down loft ladder to the storage loft with boarding and a Velux roof light. To the front, bedroom one has a bay window and laminate flooring and a leaded bay window. Bedroom two, to the rear has laminate flooring and a leaded window. Bedroom three, again to the rear, has laminate flooring and a leaded window. Being fully tiled, the bathroom has a white suite.

There is a garage to the front. The rear garden includes a block paved terrace, a block paved patio, a rockery containing mature shrubs and trees. There is also a shaped lawn with side borders and a topiary/arbour leading to a private sitting area.

OLDBURY £299,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Tom Giles Estate Agents
TEL: 0121 552 6171
EMAIL: general@tomgiles.net

KEY FEATURES

- Extended semi-detached
- Superbly maintained and presented
- Modernised and improved
- Large south-facing garden
- Three bedrooms

One-bed flats offer an investment opportunity

EDGBASTON
£424,900

A freehold investment opportunity, these four self-contained one bedroom flats in York Road, Edgbaston, generate an income of £24,000 per annum (with scope for growth in income).

In a highly desirable location within the St Augustines Conservation Area, and having communal gardens and residents' parking, they are for sale through Cottons Chartered Surveyors at £424,900.

Of the four self-contained one bedroom flats, one is a duplex.

Number 12 York Road is a traditional semi-detached property converted into four homes. It has been used in its current formal for over 20 years.

Contact Cottons Chartered Surveyors on 0121 247 4747.

Two-bedroomed terrace home in popular area is well presented

OLDBURY
£139,950 <<<

A well appointed and presented modern terraced property, 184 Bristnall Hall Road, Oldbury, lies in a convenient and popular location, and has excellent accommodation.

It is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £139,950.

It has residents' parking to the front and further allocated parking, a fore garden, an entrance hall, cloakroom/WC/store cupboard, kitchen with a built-in "Belling" oven, four-plate electric hob, extractor hood and stainless steel splash back, space for a refrigerator, ceramic tiled floor and a pantry cupboard. The lounge has French doors to the rear garden. A staircase leads from the lounge to a first floor landing. Off this are two bedrooms and a bathroom.

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111 PARK LANE, OLDBURY
GUIDE PRICE £310,000 - £340,000 (+ FEES)

LAND AT PARK STREET, ROWLEY REGIS
GUIDE PRICE £82,000 - £88,000 (+ FEES)

MERIDEN HOUSE. GREAT CORNBOW, HALESOWEN
GUIDE PRICE £290,000 - £320,000 (+ FEES)

395 LODGE ROAD, HOCKLEY
GUIDE PRICE £80,000 - £87,000 (+ FEES)

THE QUEENS HEAD. HOCKLEY
GUIDE PRICE £230,000 - £250,000 (+ FEES)

4 VERNON ROAD, OLDBURY
GUIDE PRICE £69,000 - £79,000 (+ FEES)

Refurbished and extended house for sale with no chain

OLDBURY
£575,000 <<<

The sale of this residence in Harborne Road, Warley Woods, Oldbury, is providing a wonderful opportunity to purchase an extended and grand detached residence.

Having around 2,977 sq ft of space, it has has undergone a comprehensive refurbishment programme, and is for sale at £575,000 with no chain.

It has front views of Warley Woods and original features.

An ideal family home, the property briefly comprises of a front fore garden, vestibule, hallway with Minton tiled flooring, a through lounge (formally two reception rooms) with a log burning stove, a stunning open plan and extended living dining kitchen area, five double bedrooms over two storeys (master with en-suite bathroom), and a first floor and second floor bathroom.

Contact Cottons Chartered Surveyors on 0121 247 4747.

Three-bedroom semi for sale with no chain

TIPTON
£144,950

An ideal first time or investment buy, 17 Tividale Road in Tipton, is a deceptively spacious three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Tividale village in need of general updating and decoration.

It is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £144,950 with no chain.

Having majority secondary glazing and and gas central heating, it has a fore garden, entrance vestibule, a cloakroom/WC, a lounge with a wall-mounted gas fire, a dining kitchen with a built-in "Smeg" oven, built-in four-plate gas hob and extractor canopy and room divider/breakfast bar and built-in dishwasher. There is also a dining area.

Contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171.

TOM GILES & Co

E: general@tomgiles.net www.tomgiles.net
Oldbury T: 0121 552 6171

OLDBURY
VICARAGE STREET £279,950

4 4 2

An ideal opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious Edwardian semi-detached family home with accommodation on two floors together with large ground floor extension. Off-road parking, central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens. EPC Rating D.

2 1 1
OLDBURY
BRISTNALL HALL ROAD £139,950

Well appointed and presented modern terraced property situated in a convenient and popular location offering excellent accommodation. Central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden and allocated parking to rear. EPC Rating C

1 1 1
ROWLEY REGIS
WINCHESTER CLOSE £89,950

Modern starter home offering good sized accommodation suitable for a couple or single person with double glazing and allocated parking. INTERNAL INSPECTION RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating E

3 1 1
OLDBURY
SUNNYBANK ROAD £299,950

VIEWING ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL!! Extended, modernised, well maintained and presented semi-detached house located in a quiet yet convenient location. Within walking distance of Hagley Road West and other local amenities. EPC Rating E

3 2 1
ROWLEY REGIS
QUEENS DRIVE £209,950

We are pleased to offer this detached family residence, conservatory, central heating, double glazing, garage, parking and private established garden to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E.

3 1 1
TIPTON
TIVIDALE ROAD £144,950

Deceptively spacious semi-detached house located in Tividale Village in need of general updating and decoration. Double glazing, secondary double glazing (where specified), central heating, front and rear gardens, garage and parking. EPC Rating C

2 1 1
OLDBURY
SUMMERTON ROAD £89,950

Ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Second floor flat in popular residential location. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC Rating C

2 2 1
OLDBURY
FARM ROAD £95,500

End of terrace property in need of improvement and modernisation offering an IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Double glazing and gas central heating (where specified). Low maintenance garden at rear. EPC Rating E

2 2 1
OLDBURY
WELLESLEY ROAD £575 pcm

A fully modernised and refurbished Edwardian terraced house situated in a popular residential location. Good sized accommodation warranting full internal inspection. Central heating, double glazing, lawned rear garden. Deposit - £800. EPC Rating C

OLDBURY
BIRMINGHAM STREET £6,000 per annum

Self-contained first floor offices in prominent High Street location including entrance leading into kitchen area, ladies and gents toilets, two offices. EPC Rating E

Contact us for a FREE VALUATION T: 0121 552 6171

team ARLA NAEA SAFE AGENT The Property Ombudsman APPROVED CODE TRADINGSTANDARDS.UK

Property in need of some improvement

OLDBURY
£95,500

Looking for a doer-upper? Number 24 Farm Road, Oldbury, is an end of terrace property in need of improvement and modernisation.

An ideal investment opportunity, it is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £95,500.

Having gas central heating and majority double glazing, the front door opens to the sitting room with a bay window and a tiled fireplace, a lobby, rear sitting room with a wooden fireplace, a rear lobby, kitchen, a downstairs WC, two first floor bedrooms and a first floor bathroom.

Outside, a gate provides shared access to the rear lobby. To the rear of the property is a low maintenance garden/side yard.

Contact Tom Giles Estate Agents on 0121 552 6171.

Modern home in a popular area and close to amenities

ROWLEY REGIS
£89,950 <<<

If you are looking for a first home or an investment buy, then 65 Winchester Close in Rowley Regis, could be the property for you.

A modern home, in a popular area, and suitable for a single person or a couple, it is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £89,950.

It is within walking distance of Birchfield Lane/Oldbury Road and public transport services providing links into Oldbury, West Bromwich, Blackheath, Dudley and other surrounding areas, Junction 2 of the M5 motorway, together with Rowley Regis railway station. It has double glazing and electric heating. It has a lounge/kitchen with a wooden fireplace surround. The kitchen area has base units and appliance space. There is also a bedroom and a bathroom.

Contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171.

SDL AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

For sale by auction on Wednesday 18th July at Aston Villa Football Ground. Commencing at 10.30am

Brook House, 30 Berners Street, Lozells

A Vacant Freehold Former Residential Care Home.

Comprising twenty bedrooms and ancillary accommodation. Set back from the road behind fore, side and rear gardens with driveway approach and car parking.

Guide Price* : £400,000 (plus fees)

Land Adj. 57 Boulton Road, Handsworth

A Freehold Development Opportunity.

A rectangular parcel of land situated on the corner of Boulton Road and Haseley Road which may be suitable for redevelopment.

Guide Price* : £85,000 (plus fees)

14 North Western Terrace, Hockley

A Freehold Residential Investment Property.

Current Gross Income: £6,900 pa.

Guide Price* : in excess of £69,000 (plus fees)

Ground Rent 54 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth

A Freehold Ground Rent Secured on a Private Dwelling

Guide Price* : £32,000-£36,000 (plus fees)

94 Holford Drive, Perry Barr

A Vacant Freehold Fire Damaged Semi Detached Property.

Standing back from the road behind a driveway and foregarden, which has suffered fire damage and internal viewings are not available.

Guide Price* : in excess of £25,000 (plus fees)

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* Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or – 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be + able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary. All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee.

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Deaths

WOOD
Andrew Jonathan
Sadly passed away on June 13, 2018, aged 60 years.

Much loved Dad to Sarah, Brother to Robert and missed by all Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place at Streetly Crematorium, East Chapel on Monday, July 2, 2018, at 11.30am.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to West Midlands Air Ambulance or Ward 16 Manor Hospital, c/o
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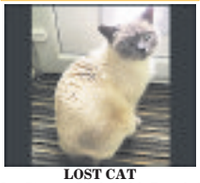

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In Stone, Lichfield Road / Saxifrage Drive area, neutered male, Ted. microchipped, no collar, white with grey face, tail and paws and blue eyes.
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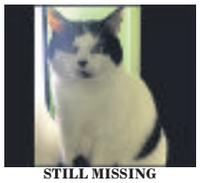

STILL MISSING
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what's on

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In Your Garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd or 01922 712184

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes
WS3 2BQ
01922 712184

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est. Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

PC's, Laptops & Accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

specialists at your service

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
Cheekatrade.com
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

A AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST
Digital Aerials Fitted
Sky & CCTV Cameras
Free Quotes. 7 days
07850 330251

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £395. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Carpets & Upholstery

SURECLEAN
Services Of Stafford
Carpets and upholstery, cleaning and treatments
Competitive rates and multi room discounts
07908 621681

Driveways & Patios

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Driveways, Pathways, Landscaping & more.
Special Offer £50 PSM
We will beat any like for like written quote
Free Quotes & Advice
01785 609076
(Based in Stafford)

TW LANDSCAPES
Driveway Restoration Specialists
Cleaning & Sealing, Patios, Driveways, Decorative Gravel Drives
All aspects of Landscaping, Fencing, Patios, Walls
New Block Paving & Tarmac Drives
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
Free no obligation quotation call: 01785 878574 or 07845 483443

Gardening Services

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Electricians

Express & Star
ELECTRICIANS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)
Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

Fencing

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards ***£795***
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Handyman Services

HANDY MAN - All trades, washing machines, outside taps, showers, plumbing, heating, gutter cleaning. Free quotes call: 07850 559315.

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

LOCK & CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, small job specialist. Call 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

House Clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

Lock Services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

Oven Cleaning

OVEN CLEANING SERVICE
Ovens, double ovens, grills, hobs, ranges and agas. All cleaned to a professional standard.
S&J Oven wizardz
01785 612517

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plastering

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Plumbing & Heating

J.H. HEATING AND PLUMBING
- Central heating installation and repairs
- Bathrooms supplied and fitted or fitting only
- Kitchen installation
- Tiling, replastering, carpentry and building work
- Electrical work

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
Tel: 0121 531 1932
Mobile: 07775 029452
www.jhheatingandplumbing.com
jhheatplumb@gmail.com

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too large. All work guaranteed.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call or text Will free quotes on: 07521 411108.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 13 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES
BRING YOUR WASTE TO US
(any size vehicle)
General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
OR
HIRE A SKIP FROM US -
Phone for prices
0121 557 3346
82 Pikehelve Street,
West Bromwich, B70 0TU

ENC Skip Hire Ltd
We are doing a summer deal on Mini skips for £85 look on our website for more deals on Skips
ENC Skip Hire Ltd
07475040066
www.encskiphireltd.co.uk

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

HEDGEHOG HOUSES, cedar treated with waterproof animal friendly preservative, £40. Cheslyn Hay. 01922 419532/07837 409533.

QUAILITY KOI CARP, from 5" to 10". Call Steve on 07857 893607.

SHORKIES Shih tzu cross Yorkshire terriers, 8 weeks old, 3 boys, 3 girls, tiny, friendly. Mom and Dad can be seen, good with children. £300. 07905 582550.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

Commercial Premises Sale / Let

Leasehold / Freehold
- Newsagents / Printing Business with potential to increase Convenience sales
- Highly profitable operation in West Midlands
- Priced to sell at £75,000 for the business, plus S.A.V
- All offers will be considered

Contact 07811 113027.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* £90pw*
Rooms *from* £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

WALSALL bedsit with en-suite and rooms to let. Fully furnished. 07825 581676.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

Courses

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED
We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SIA)
Call 01299 879 015
Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

Properties Wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
We also buy Commercial Property
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
We will buy your house fast!
Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!
Call 0121 663 1797
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Full Time General

EUROSEAL LTD ARE LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED RIGID PLASTIC EXTRUSION SETTER
Permanent Weekend Shift, Friday to Sunday
12 Hour Shifts
Days & Nights.
Rates of pay on application.
Telephone: 0121 344 4100
or email your CV to dariusz@euroseal.co.uk

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CITROEN C4 PICASSO
Platinum blue.
MoT March 2019.
Full dealer Citroen service history.
31,800 miles.
Excellent condition.
£6,995.
Telephone 01543 572265.

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 17-18 November
Accredited ocn
Learn how to take blood ...
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
Introduction to Phlebotomy
- TWO DAY COURSE - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info. or to book online: www.geopace.com
High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

Cars Over £1500

MUST BE SEEN
MAZDA MX5 EUNOS ROADSTER
1993 automatic, blue, lots of work already done, MoT ran out April 2018, sadly has to go due to ill health.
Genuine offers only
£650.
0121 505 3101.

NISSAN MICRA VISIA
2011 June
17,300 miles
Red, 5dr hatchback,
11 months MoT.
£2,750.
01785 214276.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
SAAB 9.3 TID
2008, 76,000 miles, grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, diesel, alloys, CD, owned since 2009, beautiful condition.
£2,650.
07896 963650.

BARGAIN
SUZUKI JIMNY 4 x 4 1300CC
04 reg.
Mot'd.
Good condition throughout.
£2,500
or Part Exchange for Motorhome or Camper Van.
01543 375409 / 07866 407209.

Cars Under £1500

IDEAL FIRST CAR
PEUGEOT 206
1.4, 52 reg, 3-dr hatchback, silver, petrol, manual, MoT'd till June 2019, 52,500 miles, factory fitted sunroof.
Good first car, used daily.
£500.
01922 442750.

BARGAIN
FORD FIESTA 1.4.
2004.
3 door. Hatchback.
Petrol. 76.000 miles.
Silver.
Full MoT. Spare Key.
History. E/W. A/C. RCL.
Three former owners.
£995.
07838 897643.

PEUGEOT 206 ZEST
1.1, 3-dr, 05 reg, black, only 69,000 miles, service history, one lady owner from new, long MoT,
Stunning condition.
£995.
07596 223665.

LOOK
VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 ENERGY
07 reg. Mot January.
Blue. Factory tinted window at rear.
Good condition and drives well.
£995 ono.
07415 013857.

Classic Cars

FORD FIESTA RS1800
1993, 86,000 miles, nice blue, metallic paint. Now a classic will only go up in value, great investment, only 50 of these left on the road.
£7,500 ono.
07711 822772.

Motorbikes

YAMAHA MT-07 ABS
14 reg, 700cc, only 3000 miles, very good condition.
mot Aug 18
£4,300 ono
07958 316971.

Scrap Vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

mainline Salvage & Recovery
• SCRAP CARS WANTED
• FREE COLLECTION
• TOP PRICES PAID
Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Public Notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Earl Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Earl Street, West Bromwich between Guns Lane and Duke Street. Traffic will be diverted via Guns Lane, Duke Street and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 11/07/2018, effective from 09/07/18. Purpose – repair defective valve by South Staffordshire Water.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Lombard Street West, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Lombard Street West, West Bromwich between High Street and Edward Street. Traffic will be diverted via Victoria Street, Edward Street, Dartsmouth Street and High Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 27/07/2018, effective from 09/07/18. Purpose – works to install new gas connections by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell, (Bromford Lane, West Bromwich) (Temporary One-Way Operation and No Waiting At Any Time Restriction) Order 2018, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Bromford Lane, West Bromwich between Livingstone Road and Brandon Way / Kelvin Way roundabout other than in a north easterly direction. Alternative routes for south westerly bound vehicles will be signed via Brandon Way, Wood Lane, Oxford Road, Price Street roundabout, Moor Street, Bromford Lane and vice-versa, also via Lyttleton Street, Sams Lane, Spon Lane, Kelvin Way and vice-versa. Vehicles will be prohibited from waiting or loading at any time on Bromford Lane, West Bromwich between Livingstone Road and Brandon Way/Kelvin Way roundabout (on both sides of the road) for the duration of the works. Emergency service vehicles will be exempt. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 14/07/18, effective from 10/07/18. Purpose – repairs to a water main to rectify an issue with low pressure by Onsite for South Staffs Water.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration & Growth
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.
This is a major application.

DC/18/61940	Mr Pradip Dhamecha Empire Partners Ltd	Land Adjacent Unit 1 James Watt Industrial Park Steel Bright Road Smethwick	Proposed 6 No. light industrial units, with associated parking and access

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5.00p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
AMY HARHOFF, Director of Regeneration & Growth

10 Personals

18+ SWAP NUMBERS†with local HOTTIES seeking Adult Fun! 01902 489 181/ txt: 07860 021670

AT MANYANA Gentlemans Club, 5*. 0121 472 7281. www.manyana massageparlour.co.uk

Personal

100's of lonely women seeking men for casual dates & more, easy / discreet. Call NOW 07008 026348.

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Extensive Now Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

★★★
LOOKING FOR MAE (MAY ?)
Half Japanese, Half Chinese.(Hong Kong).
Your mobile number no longer working.
Brian looking for you.
Box Number P21239 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.
★★★

Personal

PRESENTABLE, MATURE GENTLEMAN
Solvent. GSOH. No ties.
WLTM respectable, smart lady with no ties, 40-65.
For Friendship, days out, social evenings, holidays etc.
ALA Photo if possible (returned)
Box Number P21243 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★
YOUNG, MODERN, STRAIGHT, SINGLE LADY 64
No ties.
WLTM girlfriends for days out, holidays abroad, occasional evenings in Walsall area.
Box Number P21240 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.
★★★

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

Rio is a decent sized family hatchback at reasonable cost

There's plenty of choice in the range

By Carmel Stewart

Along with the rest of the Kia range, the Rio has really grown up over the past few years, developing into a decent sized, family hatch back with plenty of choice and a not too outrageous price point.

The current fourth generation model sits on an all-new platform, with new suspension, new steering, a new look, new technologies and new engine line-up.

As always with Kia, there is plenty of choice – four petrol engines and two diesels plus three gearboxes, three + two trim levels and a clear pricing structure.

All come with five doors and that industry-best, seven-year warranty. The entry-level model – badged 1 – includes air con, electric front windows, a 3.8-inch display screen, Bluetooth, steering wheel-mounted audio controls and LED daytime running lights. Safety kit includes hill-start assist to prevent the car from rolling backwards when setting off on steep inclines.

All models above 1 have autonomous emergency braking and a lane departure warning system fitted as standard, although this is an option at entry-level.

But a step up to level 3 is needed for the essential 21st century smartphone connectivity – Apple CarPlay and the like. Also included are Bluetooth with voice recognition and music streaming, a seven-inch

Behind the wheel is a comfortable place to be

touch screen, DAB radio and rear parking sensors together with 16-inch alloys, black faux leather upholstery, satellite navigation, heated front seats, heated steering wheel and rain-sensing front wipers.

Behind the wheel is a comfortable place to be regardless of trim. The Rio won't burn anyone off at the lights or encourage straight-lining the corners but it does offer a very decent, uncomplicated driving experience with no unwarranted surprises.

Choose the 1.0 litre 99bhp turbo petrol engine and you'll be rewarded with a smooth, efficient, very competent drive. Average economy runs at 62.8mpg and CO2 emissions at 102g/km.

For the red rosette of economy, diesel selection is inevitable. Kia's 1.4litre CRDi with 76bhp or 86bhp at its disposal have clocked an average 80.7mpg and 74.3mpg in official tests.

Five or six-speed manual gearboxes – both with stop/start technology – are allocated according to engine size. If the four-speed automatic is your transmission of choice, then 1.4litre 98bhp petrol is your only option. Economy runs at 56.5mpg, CO2 emissions at 114g/km. Zero to 60mph takes 11.8 seconds and top speed redlines at 108mph.

The cabin is roomy enough for five but four would be more comfortable unless the rear seat passengers are all Slimming World finalists. There are bottle shaped spaces in the door pockets and various places for stashing bits and bobs. The boot is a very acceptable 325 litres.

Prices start at a reasonable £12,000 for trim 1, powered by a 1.25litre 83bhp petrol engine, coupled with a five-speed manual gearbox. A step up to trim 2 with the same engine and gearing puts the price up to £14,240.

For trim 3 the price becomes slightly more cheek-sucking at £16,240 but not seriously so given the very decent amount of kit.

Tucked in below and above 3 are the two special editions – Pulse and First Edition.

Globally, the Rio is Kia's best-seller, with sales close to 475,000 a year, and while it is overshadowed in the UK by the Sportage and ceed range, it still accounts for almost one-sixth of the company's sales.

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY
CARS FROM £2495 ALWAYS AVAILABLE
NEW-USED CARS, SERVICE & PARTS FACILITIES
ALL CARS GUARANTEED, ALL CARS SERVICED AND MOT'D IF REQUIRED FINANCE AVAILABLE (SUBJECT TO STATUS)
REMEMBER TO BRING THIS ADVERT IN FOR AN EXTRA £100 OFF (T's & C's Apply)

2014/64 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDi 3

4-dr Auto, White, 29,031 miles £13,750

2006/06 FORD KA 1.3i DESIGN

3-dr, Deep Navy, 45,768 miles £1,995

2007/57 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i 16V DESIGN

3-dr, Gold, 41,090 miles £3,750

2010/10 FORD KA 1.2 STUDIO

3-dr, Green, 41,115 miles £4,295

2005/55 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SE

5-dr, Red, 62,162 miles £2,795

2011/11 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i 16V EXCITE

5-dr, Power Red, 55,000 miles £5,795

2007/57 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE

3-dr, Blue, 61,770 miles £2,750

2014/64 DACIA DUSTER 1.5 DCi 110 AMBIANCE

5-dr 4x4, Alpine White, 27,601 miles £7,495

2013/13 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.2 DI-D GX3

5-dr 4x4, Blue, 36,980 miles £11,995

2013/13 MERCEDES-BENZ A200 CDi BLUE EFFICIENCY AMG SPORT

5-dr, Blue, 44,370 miles £13,495

2007/07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi 110 GT

3-dr, Lacerta Yellow, 83,693 miles £3,295

2011/61 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i 16V (100) SRi

3-dr, Black Sapphire, 38,799 miles £5,495

2010/60 TOYOTA VERSO 2.2 D-CAT TR

5-dr MPV, Auto, Blue, 62,500 miles £7,450

2014/64 PEUGEOT 2008 1.6 eHDi ALLURE

5-dr Auto, Blue, 19,000 miles £8,995

2012/12 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 eHDi ALLURE

3dr Auto, Rose Quartz, 71,735 miles £5,895

2015/65 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 ACTIVE

3-dr, Black, 16,805 miles £6,995

2015/65 VAUXHALL MERIVA TECH LINE

5-dr MPV, White, 15,300 miles £8,495

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, July 5, 2018

The display offers one of the brightest screens

Fighter jet tech in Focus

The fourth-generation Ford Focus is set to continue the current car's legacy, with Ford promising impressive driving dynamics as a key selling point. However, buyers in the family hatchback segment are notoriously picky, and so the American brand is responding with a new and luxurious interior packing some as-yet-unseen tech.

The latest of these to be revealed is the Focus' new head-up display. It's the first ever fitted to a Ford and benefits the driver in one key way – allowing them access to vital driving information without being forced to take their eyes too far off the road.

When looking down at conventional dials, the eye has to re-focus for close-up vision – before focusing again on the world outside when the driver looks away. A head-up display limits this.

However, previous displays fitted to plenty of modern cars have a serious issue with drivers in polarised sunglasses. The glare-reducing sunglasses often render head-up displays invisible.

However, Ford has utilised tech first seen in fighter jets to counteract this, with a special feature which 'bounces back' polarised light to the driver. Traditional displays use light waves which vibrate parallel to the road – the same waves polarised lenses block. The Ford display uses waves that vibrate perpendicular to the road, solving the problem.

"Wearing polarised glasses can make a massive difference to visibility for drivers affected by glare, such as when stretches of water, snow or even tarmac reflect sunlight," said Glen Goold, chief engineer for the new Focus.

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CARS WANTED FOR CASH

Once you have driven a Disco Sport it will be a struggle to drive anything else

By Carmel Stewart

The passing of the compact LandRover Freelander was noted with regret by many, including me. First launched in 1997, over time it developed into a robust, well-made, comfortable, fun-to-drive vehicle until it was finally phased out in 2015.

It was replaced by the altogether more refined but no less robust, Discovery Sport. Built alongside the stylish Evoque, it has rapidly become one of LandRover's best-selling vehicles, despite the £30,000 – £50,000 price tag.

Far less chunky in appearance than the Freelander, it is sleekly styled, with a high waist, rear roof spoiler, 12 colour options and daytime running lights to signal its arrival. And it offers five or seven seats.

Inside, this family-friendly British-built SUV breathes quality throughout with ergonomically designed, immensely comfortable seats, a tidy, uncluttered dash and (on the higher spec models) just enough hi-tech graphics and the like to keep you informed but not enough to cause information overload.

An easy flick through the on-screen info, for example, will offer an eco-graphic where by the driver can check the 'greeness' of their driving. The more competitive will want to beat their previous record. The system, which gives everyone 100 per cent at the outset, resets itself after each journey. (86 per cent is the number to beat.)

Trims are many and varied: Pure, SE, SE Tech, HSE, HSE Luxury, HSE Dynamic Luxury and the Landmark special edition, celebrating 70 years of LandRover.

It is sleekly styled, with a high waist, rear roof spoiler, 12 colour options and daytime running lights

Specification

Even the five seat, Pure, front-wheel-drive, entry-level trim, which starts at £30,145, the spec is not ungenerous. Partial leather interior, ten speaker audio system, Bluetooth, autonomous emergency braking, trailer assist, leather steering wheel, lane departure warning, cruise control and rear parking aid are just a small sample of what is included.

However, this entry point only offers the Ingenium 2.0litre, four cylinder, 150bhp turbocharged diesel engine with the six-speed manual transmission. Average economy for this unit runs at a tad under 50mpg and emissions at 149 g/km while a standing start to 60mph takes less than ten seconds and top speed redlines at 112mph.

A step up to SE is needed for a more comprehensive engine line-up and the delicious nine-speed automatic transmission.

The top priced HSE Dynamic Luxury AWD starts at £50,665. Exclusively powered by the mighty Ingenium 2.0litre four-cylinder, 290bhp, turbocharged petrol engine, linked to that super smooth nine-speed automatic transmission, it'll stretch out to 60mph from a standing start in 6.5 seconds and has a top speed of 135mph. Being a petrol engine, and a big one at that, it's a little heavy on the wallet as regards fuel – 31mpg average – and 204g/km of emissions.

In the middle of this plethora of sophisticated engines and deliciously extensive spec lists, sits the HSE Luxury which has a starting price of £45,565 for the 2.0litre 240bhp petrol engine; £45,810 for the 180bhp 2.0litre diesel; and £49,985 for the 240bhp diesel.

While those clocking up the miles will head for the more economical oil burners, it is the petrol which will give a more dynamic driving experience, being lighter and more flexible.

On the road, it proved to be thoroughly capable and composed with excellent grip, precise steering and unrelenting power, seamless delivered on demand.

The driver's seat is a very comfortable place to be. The high driving position affords good all-round visibility and the higher spec models can be adjusted electronically for the perfect position and include lumbar support.

Middle row passengers can slide and recline, should they wish to do so. The two in the (optional) pull-up seats of the third row need a certain degree of agility and flexibility – not a place for Gran and Grumps – but fine for a school run or short hop to the pub.

Invest a slightly eye-watering £4,590 for access to the truly swish entertainment package with television screens integrated into the rear headrests and headphones so at least two of the offspring can watch the TV programme/ DVD of their choice on very clear screens.

The flat loading boot with its power-controlled lid, adds to the practicality of the Discovery Sport and, for those who have to add towing horse boxes and the like to their general family taxi duties, the electrically deployable tow bar at £1,005 would be a good investment. A rear-view camera is a no cost option.

Standard spec on the HSE Luxury includes Windsor leather interior, selectable ambient lighting, heated/ cooled front seats, heated leather steering wheel, parallel/ perpendicular park assist, illuminated tread plates, USB charging points for rear seat passengers.

This British-built SUV breathes quality throughout

There is no doubt that there are cheaper SUVs on the market but there is something about the LandRover quality and style which draws you in and defies logic.

Once you have driven the Disco Sport, it will be a struggle to enjoy anything else.

GEM issues advice to keep cool in the heatwave

Forecasters are predicting continued high temperatures in coming days, and GEM Motoring Assist is taking the opportunity to offer advice that should help keep drivers cool and calm, even when it's sweltering outside.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth says: "Making long journeys in hot weather can be stressful, especially if traffic is heavy and you're stuck for any length of time. We recommend good preparation and sensible journey planning to help you cope with the worst of the heat.

"Hot weather can be tough for your car. For example, batteries frequently take a battering, with everyone on board wanting to keep phones and tablets fully charged, and holiday journeys in stop-start traffic.

"That's why we encourage you to carry out some basic checks before a long summer journey, and to ensure you keep your eye on the car for any signs and symptoms of trouble."

GEM has issued the following simple tips to assist drivers and their passengers when the weather is hot:

- Drink plenty of water. Take a good supply of drinking water with you, preferably in a cool bag. Staying hydrated helps keep you in good physical condition during times of high temperature.
- Check your engine before you set off; in particular make sure your oil and coolant levels are correct.
- Do not leave children or pets in the car, even for short periods. In hot weather, it's simply cruel and negligent. Besides, distress, dehydration and heatstroke can occur very quickly.
- If you do get stuck in traffic, keep an eye on the temperature gauge for signs of overheating. If necessary, find somewhere safe to pull over and let the car cool down for half an hour.
- If you're likely to be stationary for a long time, switch off the engine to prevent overheating.

Keep your cool

Joshua at Bar Sport, Cannock with world class boxing referee Terry O'Connor from Codsall

At Wolverhampton Racecourse Joshua with, left, James Ward (Gold Star) and, right, Andy Sahota (Showfighter)

Champion Anthony Joshua with his array of belts

Anthony Joshua defeated Wladimir Klitschko at Wembley last year

How Joshua is rewriting the boxing record books

WHEN it comes to sporting superstars, they don't come any bigger than Anthony Joshua.

Humble, hungry and infectiously happy, the WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight champion of the world is doing something British boxing has never seen before.

In just 21 fights he has reached the top of his sport – with American Deontay Wilder, the holder of the WBC belt, the only man standing in his way from making history and unifying the entire division.

And his next fight, says promoter Eddie Hearn, will be against Russian Alexander Povetkin.

It's the way Joshua has gone about his business though that has seen him grow a fanbase like no other. While sports fans idolise him, Joshua's politeness and joy for life has seen him capture the hearts of the nation. And he recently treated fans in Wolverhampton and Cannock to meet and greet sessions.

The reality is everyone and their nan loves the Hertfordshire-born heavyweight, who seemingly hasn't changed despite a rag-to-riches tale.

Wealthy beyond his wildest dreams, it is only in the past 12 months the 28-year-old has moved out of the former council flat he shared with his mother in Golders Green.

Determined

His new house is nearby and a 15-minute drive from a £500,000 Finchley apartment he bought for his ex-girlfriend and their infant son, Joseph.

But while he is now a superstar with the world at his feet, Joshua isn't getting carried away. And he is absolutely determined to enjoy his life and time in the spotlight. He said recently when meeting fans in the city: "I'm in Wolverhampton, I've never been here before and I want to come back next week because it is lively.

"It's a two-hour drive from my home and I've never been here, can you believe it? I need to start exploring. We're three hours from Morocco by plane. Two hours from France on the Eurostar.

"I hear athletes that say they can't do things because of their insurance policy. I'm not going to protect myself from reality. I'm not having that, let's go out and have a good time. Let's do it, let's have fun."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"I've not reached my peak. I have made a few mistakes and I know what I want to achieve"

When speaking to Joshua, two things are clear. The first is that he is incredibly grateful for the life he now has. He may have worked incredibly hard to get there, but you'll never hear him moan.

"I'm not complaining about anything," he continued. "You just have to learn how to deal with the hard work. I'm smiling. Hard work has been my breakthrough. I'm not the most talented so I've got to enjoy the hard work."

The second thing that strikes you about him is how obsessed – repeat, obsessed – he is by becoming the best he can be. He knows he is on the brink of being regarded as one of the all-time greats – and that is something he isn't going to let pass him by.

"I'm very comfortable with where I am now," he continued. "I've not reached my peak. I have made a few mistakes and I know what I want to achieve.

"This is not about the money. What will make me content is knowing I gave my best.

"There is no financial package out there that can make you feel content with your life. I want to give it my all, that is what matters to me.

"One day – and that day will come – I don't want to sit watching the next generation of boxers thinking I didn't achieve my potential.

"I want to give it my best – inside and outside the ring. Now I see myself as a student of boxing. I'm always watching old fights. I love Evander Holyfield. He is the first fighter I have watched that I can really learn from. He has got rhythm. And I respect him so much because he didn't dodge anyone.

"Mike Tyson didn't box Riddick Bowe. Riddick Bowe didn't fight Lennox Lewis. But Holyfield fought Tyson, Lewis and Riddick. He boxed them all. What a man – the ultimate warrior."

Joshua's rise to the top has been unprecedented. After winning gold at the London Olympics in 2012, he seriously contemplated defending his title in Brazil four years later. Instead, he made what, for him, was a difficult decision to go pro.

Yet he has since stormed through the heavyweight division with his eye-catching win over Wladimir Klitschko one of the greatest bouts of all time.

Away from the ring though, things haven't always been plain sailing. In 2009, Joshua was put on remand in Reading Prison for what he describes as 'fighting and other crazy stuff'. Then in March 2011, he was pulled over for speeding, with police finding cannabis hidden in a sports bag. And Joshua admits there was a time when he was in danger of losing his way.

"At school, I couldn't sit down for six hours a day – I was an active kid," he said. "It's hard to go from lesson to lesson. Some kids excel at that, but most kids want to be out.

Respectful

"I think my teachers would say I was a nice kid because I was always respectful, but I was a little bit disruptive at times.

"I was still getting into a bit of trouble up until about 2011. I was in London. I lived on an estate and I wanted to party and go out drinking.

"But I was a member of an amateur boxing club and I got a call to go up to Sheffield to be involved with the Olympic team.

"I hadn't come from a sporting background. I didn't have a clue what Olympic boxing was. But I went there to see what it was about and they kept me on the development squad.

"I wanted to kind of keep my hustle going on. I focused on balancing the two. But I remember, one day, speaking to my friend and saying 'I think I might be OK at this boxing thing.'

"I was about 20 years old. But I never went into boxing to be a boxer it was more about confidence."

Joshua admits both his parents are proud of how he has since dedicated his life to his sport.

"I wasn't ever looking for trouble, I was always respectful because that is how my parents raised me," the fighter said.

Star-studded match for Air Ambulance

CELEBRITIES from the world of music, television and Hollywood will converge on Walsall FC next year for a charity match in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

The star-studded match, on May 11, is being organised by Sellebrity Soccer and Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Celebrities taking part include Calum Best, actor Stephen Graham and former Blue member Lee Ryan. Ex-footballers Darren Byfield and Paul Konchesky are also hoping to line-up. More players and special guest managers will be announced later.

Early bird supporters can buy tickets until December for £10 for adults and £5 for under 14s. Tickets are on sale at www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc/details/event.aspx?eventref=1798

A limited number of VIP Tickets are available at £35 per person, with access to the Players' Lounge before and after the match. A celebrity player pre-match dinner on May 10 costs £50 per person. Limited sponsorship packages are also available on 0800 8402040.

Old clubs in friendly clash for Regis Trophy

WEST BROM will host Coventry City at The Hawthorns in a pre-season friendly to celebrate the life of Cyrille Regis.

The Baggies will face the Sky Blues, with whom Regis won the FA Cup in 1987, on Saturday, July 28, in their final warm-up game before the Championship season starts. The two clubs will be competing for the inaugural Cyrille Regis Memorial Trophy in honour of the iconic striker who died aged 59 in January. Ticket details will be announced at a later date.

It is hoped other Midlands clubs will contest the trophy in years to come.

Legendary forward Regis was a close friend and mentor of Albion head coach Darren Moore, who has helped organise the memorial match together with the Regis family.

"It's a real honour," said Cyrille's widow Julia. "I think Cyrille would be slightly embarrassed and amused by the attention but that speaks volumes about who he was, understated. In our grief we have taken great comfort by the love everyone has shown and continues to do."

Uni team steps out on football pyramid

THE University of Wolverhampton men's football team has entered a team in the Football League pyramid. The team already plays in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competition but from next season will also enter a team into the Total Motion Midlands Football League.

Known as WLV Football FC the team will be made up of university staff and students, as well as the community, and will play in the league's third division.

The league is the 12th tier of the national football pyramid and is seven tiers away from the National League.

The team is based at the University's Walsall Campus and pre-season training has kicked off this week.

Anyone joining the university in September, or a current student who wants to be involved, should contact Martin Longworth by phone on 07926 647811 or email m.longworth@wlv.ac.uk or James Dale, sports manager, at james.dale@wlv.ac.uk

Sport

Knockout! Champ Joshua is rewriting record books

Page 39

Battle of the Baggies II on Khan bill

THE long-awaited Battle of the Baggies II will provide chief support to Amir Khan's return to Birmingham in September.

Jason Welborn and Tommy Langford will head a packed undercard at Arena Birmingham in a British Middleweight title rematch. Welborn won the title from Langford via a split decision in May. Stourbridge's Sam Eggington will feature on the September 8 undercard.

The headline bout is Khan's battle with Samuel Vargas. Also on bill is Ryan Kelly, defending the Midlands Area super welterweight title he won in May via stoppage at Villa Park against unbeaten Dordon man Kelcie Ball, and super bantamweight star Gamal Yafai. But the Welborn-Langford clash is the one that all Midland boxing fans are looking forward to.

"We are delighted to have secured the rematch on such a big show," said Errol Johnson, of Black Country Boxing. "We thank Eddie Hearn and Matchroom Boxing for adding this fight to their bill.

"The first fight was worthy of television, so it's great to know that the wider boxing public will be able to witness the second instalment."

Welborn stunned big favourite Langford at Walsall Town Hall in May to take the British middleweight title – two judges gave the bout to Welborn by 114-113 with the third judge awarding it to Langford at 115-113.

Tickets are £40, £60, £80, £100 and £200 VIP from www.StubHub.co.uk or at www.arenabham.co.uk

Smethwick hopes are boosted after six-wicket victory

SMETHWICK boosted their Birmingham Premier Division prospects with a six-wicket win over Shrewsbury.

Smethwick skittled the hosts for 83 in 21 overs. Former Warwickshire bowler Recordo Gordon, now playing Minor County cricket for Cambridgeshire, produced a devastating eight-over opening spell, snapping up seven consecutive wickets for 34. At 17-3, then 46-4, in reply, the game was in the balance, but an unbroken fifth wicket stand between Gurinder Singh (30no) and Faisal Shahid (20no) saw Smethwick home.

West Bromwich Dartmouth kept up with the leading pack, thanks to a two-wicket win over Moseley, who ended on 231. Dartmouth were coasting at 159-3 thanks to 57 from Omar Masood and 40 from Kadeer Ali but Ali Awan produced 6-54 to leave them on 190-6. Two more wickets fell at 222 but an unbeaten 68 from Andrew Umeed secured the win.

A captain's innings of 65 from veteran Jonathan Wright, with a 37 from Shafiq Ahmed, took Old Hill to 243 against Redditch in Division Three. Nigel Davenport took 5-91 in the Redditch reply of 204.

First defeat follows fifth win on trot

BIRMINGHAM'S winning start to their National League campaign came to an end with a 49-41 defeat at Eastbourne on Saturday. It comes after the Edwards Plumbing Brummies had made it five wins out of five, 51-39 at the Isle of Wight.

Birmingham had kept in touch throughout the meeting at the tight Arlington circuit, but a lack of lower-order strength proved their undoing.

Tom Bacon and Danyon Hume carded a series of race victories but were denied a league point in a frustrating end to the match in Heat 15. The Brummies needed an advantage from the last race to snatch a league point, and the prospects initially looked good as Tom Bacon hit the front holding off pressure from both Eastbourne riders.

However, Georgie Wood made his way through to lead before Tom Brennan's attempt to follow him through ended with him clattering into Bacon and bringing the Birmingham skipper down.

While Brennan was correctly disqualified, the outcome was no real penalty to the Eagles as the race was awarded with Wood the winner. Teenager Leon Flint was the inspiration for the win over Isle of Wight, after the Edwards Plumbing Brummies suffered a catalogue of falls and mechanical failures in the first nine races, offering the Warriors the chance of a shock victory.

Fate then smiled on the visitors when home No.1 Ben Morley crashed out after a battle with Birmingham guest Danny Ayres in Heat 10.

The 5-1 for Ayres and Callum Walker put the Brummies four points to the good. Without Morley the Warriors lacked the firepower to respond.

BRUM BEATEN AS ACE CRASHES OUT

BRUMMIES ace James Shanes admitted it was always going to be "tough" after losing Danyon Hume after a nasty crash at Monmore Green.

The visitors lost 52-37 at Cradley after Hume was ruled out after a bad tangle with Chris Widman in Heat 4.

Brummies not surprisingly found it hard work after losing heat-leader Hume but Shanes and Tom Bacon were outstanding with 15 and 12 points. Shares, who scored a maximum, said: "It was a bad crash and he's got a nasty knock but after that we were essentially a two-man team with Tom Bacon and I.

"The boys tried really hard to keep us in the meeting. But without having our third heat leader it was going to be tough.

"Leon Flint is just up into the team and it will take him time to settle and he had an awkward fall late on in the meeting too. Cradley are a very good side anyway with Drew Kemp flying at reserve. Even at full strength it would have be a hard match for us.

"We gave it everything we had. Tom and I just kept trying to make sure we won our races and hoped the other boys to pick up the odd third place which they did."

Bacon and Shanes were outstanding for the Brummies as they kept the visitors in contention despite the setback of losing Hume.

Flying Bacon won Heat 1 in style from Cradley guest Danny Ayres but the home side took control when the classy young 15-year-old Kemp won Heat 2 and with Widman second, the Heathens were four in front. The much-awaited clash "war of the wonderkids" never materialised with Shanes roaring clear in Heat 3 with Bickley left at the back behind rival Flint.

Then came the horror incident in Heat 4 followed by a repair to the airfence and from then on it was the Bacon and Shanes show.

However, when they weren't in the line-up Brummies were vulnerable and three maximum 5-1s in six races left them reeling.

Test of pupils' sporting skills

Black Country School Games Summer Festival at University of Wolverhampton, Walsall

MORE than 1,500 young athletes from schools around the Black Country came together for the seventh staging of The Black Country School Games Summer Festival.

Students from more than 80 schools across Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall went head-to-head at The University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus.

After taking part in sportshall athletics, multi-skills, rounders, rugby, cricket, dodgeball, tri-golf, multi-skills SEND, football and duathlon, Wolverhampton were crowned champions – taking home the Joel Richards Black Country School Games Festival Cup for the second year in succession. The city's St Andrew's School won the multi-skills and its Girls' High the rounders.

● More pictures next week

Chadli breaks Japan's hearts during thriller

ALBION'S Nacer Chadli scored a dramatic World Cup winner as Belgium came from 2-0 down to knock out Japan on Monday.

The Belgians were trailing to strikes from Genki Haraguchi and Takashi Inui, but fought back through headers from Jan Vertonghen and Marouane Fellaini before Chadli won it with a superb team goal in injury time.

Chadli, who has a £17 million release clause in his contract, is expected to leave The Hawthorns this summer after a disappointing campaign,

It began with him refusing to go to Austria with Tony Pulis last pre-season and did not get much better as he only appeared six times for the Baggies. He made his seventh Belgium appearance of the season. Chadli and his team-mates will next meet Brazil tomorrow, Friday, who booked a World Cup quarter-final place as Neymar turned on the style.

Meanwhile, Albion are closing in on a £6.5m deal for Manchester United goalkeeper Sam Johnstone – and have released their new home kit.

Johnstone, who has spent the last season-and-a-half on loan at Baggies' rivals Villa, is expected to become the club's first signing of the summer this week.

His arrival is paving the way for Ben Foster's shock exit, which would end a seven-year association with the Baggies.

Watford are closing in on a £2.5m deal for the 35-year-old, who is now set to rejoin the club he spent two seasons on loan at.

Black Country race pair's double delight

ROUND four of the No Limits endurance series moved to the picturesque setting of Anglesey – and it was another triumphant one for the Black Country's Double Two Racing team.

The pairing, Tividale's Peter Wright, and Martyn Siviter, of Blackheath, stormed to two first-place class finishes and a sixth place overall to extend their championship lead.

A breakdown of results meant Double Two Racing had secured first place in the Club 600 – the championship they lead – first in the National 600 class, which is one class above Club 600, and sixth overall.

★★★

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